

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



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FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk July 26, 2015

Mid edition No 670

OBITUARY

Tributes to 'Son of Kent'

Remembering the
late Allan Willett

HEALTH

Contaminated blood fury

Victim slams latest
'slap in the face'

ENERGY

Solar farms in the dark

Are expansion plans
set to be derailed?

EVENTS

Can tanks beat Stack?

Crowds of 100,000 head to War &
Peace show as M20 shuts again



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Be sure not to lose sight of the value of every life

AMID all the fury which has accompanied the return of Operation Stack this week, the outrage at the striking French ferry workers and the chaos of the migrants seeking passage to the UK, we are in very real danger of devaluing human life.

On Friday morning, the body of a teenager was found at the Eurotunnel entrance in Folkestone. The assumption was that he was one of the many risking life and limb in an effort to reach what they perceive as the promised land.

Many will mutter that was the gamble he took. And indeed in many ways that is correct. But we must ensure we never lose sight of the reasons just why he, and plenty of others like him, are taking such extraordinary risks.

Many, after all, are people fleeing war zones or countries riddled with both crime and poverty. They are seeking



Editor **Chris Britcher**

refuge. For all we know they may be trying to reach family or friends here. Whatever, they deserve to still be considered human beings, and each loss mourned as a tragedy.

Of course, that is not to say they should act in such a dangerous manner, attempting to board trains and lorries. But we must never lose sight of the fact if they are prepared to take such risks, there must be a very compelling reason to do so. Saying simply they head here to milk our benefits system is just a lazy effort to conform to a contorted stereotype.

Which is not to say let's open our borders. In fact, quite the opposite. Something needs to be done. But every EU nation pointing in a different direction is not helpful. These are people. We are a civilised Continent. We need to reach a civilised conclusion. There is no easy solution, but we cannot allow the chaos of Calais to continue.

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Quantity of legal highs in our town centres down

By Chris Britcher

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TRADING standards officers say they are finally winning the war on so-called 'legal highs' after another wave of crackdowns in high streets across the county.

This time last year a host of raids were conducted on premises in town centres, during which 400 samples were seized and 1,400 suspended from sale from 16 stores.

Four of the shops were forced to close and permanently.

But following repeat visits this week, three of the shops where what Kent and Medway trading standards call 'new psychoactive substances' were sold had just 79 packets between them. A fourth had a more substantial haul which is now being analysed.

Kent County Council trading standards manager Richard Strawson said: "We see this dramatic reduction in the number shops selling these substances as a significant success."

"As we pointed out last year, we regard them as 'lethal' rather than 'legal' highs because they are dangerously unpredictable and



STASH: Examples of the sort of illegal highs that have been available on our high streets

unsafe. The government has already announced plans to crackdown on these substances, with sellers facing up to seven years in prison.

"But in the meantime we are continuing to be pro-active in protecting the public from the effects of taking these drugs."

Kent Police Inspector Garry Brimson said: "It is encouraging to see that the majority of businesses in Kent, which had previously sold

new psychoactive substances (NPS), are now getting the message loud and clear that this will no longer be tolerated.

"Of the 12 premises that we visited yesterday, eight had no NPS on display at all. The visibility of NPS in our high streets is therefore now greatly reduced and this can only lower the risk of harm to the residents of Kent, particularly the young and vulnerable."

"We will continue to work hard

to eradicate the sale of any NPS from shop shelves in Kent and anyone attempting to sell them should expect a visit from police and our partners. Any stock you have will be removed and destroyed."

"There is still some work to be done on ensuring that potential users are aware of the dangers. Although they are referred to as 'legal highs' many are not as they contain controlled substances. You don't know what you are buying."

Why our scientists are helping to grow fruit harvest across county

FARMING minister George Eustice says the county's scientists are leading the charge to ensure the UK's fruit market is fighting fit for the future.

And with so much fruit produced in Kent, that should deliver a huge financial boost to the traditional rural economy.

The politician spoke to KoS during a visit to East Malling Research, a centre for scientific agricultural research on Wednesday, and the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale, near Faversham.

Mr Eustice told KoS: "Our world-leading scientific research and strong fruit-growing heritage means scientists are finding new ways to ensure our food and farming industry continues to thrive."

"These developments mean UK consumers can enjoy our delicious berries, apples and pears come rain or shine and will also bring new opportunities for growers looking to export quality produce."

"Science and technology is crucial to our strategy for food and farming, and the fruit sector is an important part of that."

"Scientists here are looking at things like extending the strawberry season. We're now growing apricots here - there are exciting improvements being made. There's also work looking at tackling pests and diseases."

"The fruit sector has always been innovative, and we have made available some funds to support that innovation."

Using £1.9 million in government support, researchers at the National Fruit Collection in Faversham can identify the varieties of fruit most resilient to extreme weather conditions.

From apples that can withstand drought to cherries and plums that can flourish in heavy rain, the vital research on the Defra-owned collection is helping to safeguard the future of British farming and ensure an all year harvest.

Warning after users receive fake Dartford Crossing email

MALICIOUS emails pretending to be from the Dartford Crossing's payment system - Dart Charge - have been reported.

Some users have received fake receipts, despite not using the crossing.

And some experts warn that clicking on the attachment - which looks like a receipt - could put a virus on your computer.

The emails started coming through on Wednesday.

According to one online blog which charts malicious software and correspondence, called Dynamo, it said: "This fake financial email is a simple forgery with a malicious attachment."

Highways England have been contacted but did not make a statement before we went to press.

Farmers: We want to hear from sheep dip sufferers

CALLS are growing for an independent inquiry into the effect of organophosphate (OP) sheep dip on human health.

Farmers were required by law to dip their sheep with OPs to control infestations before mandatory dipping came to an end in 1992.

Since then, hundreds of farmers nationwide have claimed health problems, as a result of the dip.

A Westminster Hall debate last month heard calls for an inquiry into the issue, amid claims government officials did not act soon enough on private warnings.

If you believe you have been affected by use of OP dip our Investigations Unit would like to hear from you. Please call David Powles on 01603 772478 or email david.powles@archant.co.uk.



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Jail for fraudster who stole doctor's identity

A WOMAN who admitted stealing a doctor's identity and treating patients throughout England – including at prisons on Sheppey – has been jailed for two years and four months.

Oluwadamilola Opemuyi, 29, formerly of Bridgeside Mews, Maidstone, used the doctor's details alongside a number of false documents to find employment

through a locum agency.

Her crimes came to light when she was arrested at a pharmacy in Maidstone on January 26 after attempting to collect two prescriptions she had written for herself.

She pleaded guilty at Maidstone Crown Court to four counts of fraud, three of forgery and two of possessing a false identity document with intent.



RIP: Junior Dian died earlier this month

Club to test all players after tragic death

NON-league football side Tonbridge Angels is to screen all its players for heart problems following the tragic death of a player who collapsed during a recent match.

Junior Dian, 24, was a trialist at the club when he collapsed during a pre-season friendly at Whyteleafe.

Despite desperate efforts to save him, he died after being rushed to hospital. It is believed he suffered from a rare heart condition.

Now the club will introduce heart screening for all players between 14 and 35 in a bid to avoid similar tragedies. Each test costs £35.

The club is also leading a campaign with other clubs in the south east to raise £21,000 to provide screening for 600 players across Kent.

Steve Churcher, chairman of TAFC said today: "Since the tragic events, I've learnt that 12 apparently fit and healthy young people die suddenly in the UK every week. In Italy, where screening is mandatory for all young people engaged in organised sport they have reduced the incidence of young sudden cardiac death by 89 per cent which is an incredible statistic."

Nearly £2,000 was raised for Mr Dian's family by collections at various clubs, including Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Whyteleafe in Surrey.

MP claims Stack solution could be rolled out next week as cost accelerates

By Chris Britcher

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OPERATION Stack rumbled back for yet another period of disruption this week and there are growing fears we face a summer of relentless disruption.

But after a meeting on Friday, there are some hopes a change to the way Stack is run could help ease the pain.

Ashford MP Damian Green claims a contraflow system could be a 'short term' solution to Operation Stack misery – and said it could be in place 'within days'.

According to Mr Green: "I pressed the point, along with others, that there are lots of potential medium term solutions – like lorry parks – but we need something to happen now and the answer seems to be a contraflow system on the northbound M20. Highways England are looking at working on that so that next week we can ask for that to be implemented. It could only be a matter of days.

"There were other longer term solutions but that is the one which could be



PCC: Ann Barnes

in place most immediately – it seems practical."

After the ferry dispute was resolved earlier in the week (see page 19) the major issue has now become that of migrants attempting to storm the

French end of the Eurotunnel.

The very real human tragedy was highlighted again when a teenager's body was found at the Folkestone end.

It is believed he had tried to gain access to the UK from Coquelles.

Earlier in the week, Kent's police and crime commissioner, Ann Barnes, said the policing bill of Stack was fast approaching £1million.

Before Stack returned on Wednesday, the commissioner said it had already cost the force £700,000 and was taking up the equivalent of 112 members of staff's time every 24 hours.

She demanded the cost be met by central Government.

In a letter to transport minister Patrick McLoughlin MP, Mrs Barnes said: "I am asking you to provide a permanent and comprehensive solution which provides full and continuing reimbursement for the taxpayers of Kent. They cannot go on any longer subsidising this national issue at the expense of local policing – especially when the force has already lost a fifth of its funding... with more inevitably to come."

Sheppey Crossing is given 50mph limit

A TEMPORARY speed limit of 50mph has been introduced onto the controversial A249 Sheppey Crossing, following an investigation into a crash last summer which saw a mother and her eight-year-old son killed.

It has been brought in after the coroner investigating the crash asked Highways England to consider urgent safety measures on the bridge, which is the main link between the M2 at Stockbury and Sheerness.

A Highways England spokesperson said: "The coroner in the pre-inquest hearing has recommended urgent action.

"In the interim, before the full inquest has taken place, Highways England has taken the decision to introduce a temporary speed limit on the basis that we need to assess whether such a measure would improve safety. Our objective is ensuring safe and reliable journeys on the A249 and the Sheppey Crossing for the 30,000 drivers who depend on it every day."

Workers arm pulled into shredding unit

A COMPANY owner has been given a suspended prison sentence following an horrific incident which saw a father-of-four lose his arm after getting it caught in a tyre shredder.

Nathan Johnson, 25, from Folkestone, had been working on the premises of Cartwright Projects in Westwell, near Ashford, in November 2013 when his sleeve got caught dragging his finger into the shredding machine.

He lost the forearm up to the elbow and needed extensive hospital treatment, including skin grafts from his left leg to replace the remains of his arm and a bolt in his elbow to ensure it remained intact.

Mark Anton Arabaje, from Cranbrook, sole director of the now-dissolved company, pleaded guilty under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. He was sentenced to a four-month prison sentence at Canterbury Crown Court, suspended for 12 months. He must observe a home curfew between 8pm and 6am and wear an electronic tag. He must also pay £5,000 compensation to Mr Johnson.

Is your chippy in the running for top prize?

TWO local fish and chip shops are in the running to be crowned the best in London and the south east at a prestigious awards.

They are in the running for the local leg of the 2016 National Fish and Chip Awards hoping to be named independent takeaway of the year for the traditional dish.

Kent's shortlisted restaurants are Papa's Barn in Ditton and The Village Fish & Chips in Orpington.

To get to this stage and secure a place in the coveted shortlist, shops have been appraised across a variety of judging criteria including responsible sourcing policies, marketing and promotional practices and staff training policies.

Over the coming weeks, they will be subjected to further judging as they receive mystery shopping assessments by industry experts. The next stage of the competition will whittle down the line up, establishing a UK top 20 which will compete for the prestigious regional titles.

The contest is run by Seafish which champions the fishing industry.

Court after woman loses top of finger at War & Peace Show

By Maria Chiorando

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A TRADER who sold explosives, one of which detonated in a woman's hand during the War and Peace Revival Show has been convicted of storing the dangerous materials without a licence.

Paul Heddell was found storing the explosives after a woman was injured when she bought what she thought was a decommissioned pyrotechnic 'thunder flash' from him.

The pyrotechnic exploded, causing her burns and removing the top of one of her fingers at the 2013 War and Peace Revival Show.

It was the first time it was held at Folkestone Racecourse, in Westenhanger, after leaving its former Paddock Wood home.

Heddell - trading as PDH Enterprises - was charged with storing approximately 73kg of explosives without a licence and failing in his duty of care to protect others from harm.

The charges, which were brought by Kent County Council's trading standards department, relate to a breach of Regulation 10 of the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005 and a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Heddell, of Bradcar Road, Norfolk, admitted the offences when he appeared at Canterbury Crown Court on Tuesday. He will now



EVENT: See pictures from this year's event by turning to pages 28-29

be sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court on August 25.

KCC trading standards manager Mark Rolfe said: "We hope that this conviction serves as a timely reminder explosives and pyrotechnic devices are extremely dangerous and should not be freely available to the public but only handled by those who have the necessary knowledge and experience."

This year's War and Peace Revival got under way at the site in Westenhanger on Wednesday.

It is expected more than 100,000 people will make the trip to see what is hailed as the 'largest gathering of military vehicles and battle re-enactment on the planet'.

The hugely popular event confirmed this week it had also been acquired by new organisers, who would take over the event.

John Allison will work alongside long-time organiser Rex Cadman when it takes control of the show next year. It has also confirmed it expects the show to once again be staged at Folkestone Racecourse.

University Challenge TV date for top team

A TEAM from the University of Kent will feature on BBC2's University Challenge on Monday (July 27).

They will be seen doing battle in the long-running varsity quiz with four students representing Newcastle.

The Kent team comprises: Emma Isworth, MA medical humanities; Caitlin Gilroy, BSc physics; Thomas Cheetham, MA war, media and society; Alexander Atmore, BA comparative literature.

'Terrifying' dog attack prompts owner hunt

POLICE are hunting the owner of an uncontrolled dog which left a couple and their pets injured after an attack on parkland close the The Street in Iwade on July 14.

PC Gemma Windley said: "This was a terrifying attack. If anyone has any information come forward so we can stop this happening again."

Weather to disappoint

FORECASTERS are predicting a disappointing start for the long school summer holidays, with temperatures dropping below average and a wet weekend.

A yellow weather warning was issued on Friday after heavy winds and rain swept in and the gloomy weather is expected to last until the early part of next week.

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Steer clear of A&E unless its an emergency, trust warns

AN OVER-run hospital trust begged people to stay away this week unless their case is an absolute emergency.

East Kent Hospitals called on the public to carefully consider safe alternatives to A&E in east Kent, particularly for its emergency department at the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital, Margate, known as the QEOM.

It said that emergency department is currently extremely busy, caring for large numbers of people who are seriously ill.

The trust, which employs 7,400 staff, said: "We are appealing to people who don't have a serious or life-threatening illness or injury to avoid going to A&E and to seek care elsewhere. If you need medical help fast but it is not a 999 emergency, call NHS 111."



Director of operations Jane Ely said on Thursday: "We have seen a sudden surge in attendance at the QEOM Hospital in the past 24 hours and are asking members of the public to consider if they may be

able to seek appropriate help from their pharmacist, GP or a minor injuries unit.

"This will help us to provide the specialist care seriously ill patients need in our emergency departments."

Whitstable secures £10k community fund boost

AS THOUSANDS of people head to Whitstable this weekend for the town's hugely popular oyster festival, the seaside resort was further buoyed by news it had secured £10,000 to develop an economic plan.

It will receive £10,000 after a successful bid to become a Coastal Community Team.

Coastal communities minister Mark Francois revealed 116 similar towns around the UK to add to the existing handful of pilot projects.

The teams, bringing together local business, councils and people, help coordinate regeneration projects in their area and get the chance to shape the next wave of the successful Coastal Communities Fund, announced in the budget earlier this month.

Mr Francois said: "Coastal Community Teams will help decide where that investment goes because local people know best what is needed to grow their local economy. We are backing them with £1m of direct support and the budget also confirmed at least £90m more will be spent in the coming years through the Coastal Community Fund, which these teams will have access to."

Canterbury MP Julian Brazier, whose constituency extends through Whitstable, said he was "delighted" at the news and will be meeting with Gordon Vincent, the director of Whitstable Maritime [which champions the town's progress] as soon as possible to discuss the way forward.

Hero creator's art sale

FANS Stan Lee's iconic superhero artwork will be able to get their hands on limited edition signed artwork this week.

A collection of signed limited edition artworks comprised of iconic Marvel comic book covers are available at Castle Galleries in Bluewater. Prices start at £695.

Rail engineering work

SOUTHEASTERN is advising passengers to check before they travel this week to avoid engineering work by Network Rail.

Among the lines affected will be between Dover Priory and Ramsgate and Strood and Paddock Wood. Replacement bus services will be in place.

Search for bee farmers

AN APPRENTICESHIP scheme to find commercial bee farmers of the future has been launched in a bid to boost the number of the insects in the UK.

The Bee a Bee farmer scheme is funded by Rowse Honey with those taking part trained by the Bee Farmers' Association.

Half marathon now open

ENTRY is open now for the 10th Folkestone Rotary Half Marathon taking place on September 27.

Organised by the Folkestone Rotary Club, last year raised more than £35,000 for good causes. There is also a children's race. To register online, visit www.nice-work.org.uk.

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Top Three Stories



- 1. Ramsgate export row
Live animal export has resumed
- 2. The hunting debate
Has chasing foxes had its day?
- 3. 'Lethal high' success
Huge clampdown on the dangerous drugs

The Essential Guide:



Fracking

All you need to know <http://bit.ly/19P9F6f>



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: This weekend, thousands of visitors will flock to the War and Peace Revival, which started on Wednesday. Organisers are expecting huge crowds. To read more about the show, turn to pages 28-29.

Miss last week's...?

...YOU can read the paper online via our e-Edition at www.Kentnews.co.uk

THEY say the best things in life are free - and that's certainly the case with this copy of the Kent on Sunday.

And the hard copy you hold in your hand is not the only way to catch up with all the latest news from across the whole county.

You can find digital editions online - not just this week, but a vast archive with lots of our older issues - and all for no cost.

Simply go to our website, and follow the digital edition tab on the right hand side of the page.



Top Three Blogs



- 1. Gmail's undo-send
But is this a good thing for society at large?
- 2. Breastfeeding in public
Women should be applauded not shamed
- 3. Irrational road rage
Why are bad road manners so infuriating?

Results of the KoS Online Poll

After government U-turn: Do you support fracking?

1	Yes	6%
2	No.....	93%
3	Yes but not in my area.....	1%
4	Don't know.....	0%

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Final salute to esteemed 'Son of Kent' Allan Willett

The former Lord Lieutenant passed away last Saturday after years of service to the county. We look back at his life

TRIBUTES have been pouring in this week for the former Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett, who has died after a long illness. The entrepreneur and philanthropist died aged 78 on Saturday. He would have been 79 next month.

Canterbury MP Julian Brazier said: "Allan was a great son of Kent. He was dedicated to the county all his life and, as Lord Lieutenant, brought his enthusiasm, expertise and often his own generous donations to so many county charities.

"Just two of the areas where his dynamic presence was felt most strongly were in the appeal for the cathedral and his work with cadet forces. "He will be a great loss to Kent."

Born in India of tea planter parents from Kent, Mr Willett returned with them at the age of two and was brought up on Thanet farms during the Second World War.

He played rugby for Kent as a schoolboy, was commissioned in The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) and served with the King's African Rifles fighting the Mau Mau in Kenya.

After working as a salesman in Canada, he moved into the packaging industry and, back in the UK, formed his own company in 1962.

This business evolved into Willett International Limited which developed the world's first micro processor controlled labelling machine and then a year later, in 1978, the first inkjet printer for cartons.

Willett International twice won the Queen's Award for Export and many other major national and international awards. It became the fourth largest electronic coding and information labelling company in the world, with £80 million in annual sales, over 1,000 employees and operating subsidiaries in 30 countries.

In January 2003 the company was sold, and Mr Willett, the principal shareholder, stepped down as chairman.

In the public sector he was a director of Locate in Kent, the East Kent Enterprise Agency and chairman of the East Kent Initiative and Forum.

In the early 1990s the then Conservative government invited him to become the founding chairman of the Industrial Development Board for London and the south east, and in

1998 the then Labour government asked him to establish its Regional Development Agency for the South East of England (Seeda), promoting sustainable wealth creation, re-generation and social inclusion. He was the founding chairman until he stepped down in December 2002.

Working with the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce (RSA) he took a major part in the creation of the Centre for Tomorrow's Company. He was its founding chairman and helped fund its start-up.

In January 2004, he created The Allan Willett Foundation which has since made charitable donations totalling some £4 million to causes ranging from Canterbury and Rochester cathedrals, the new Marlowe Theatre and the Turner Contemporary to all manner of community organisations from the cadet movements to pensioners' groups, and to medical research.

Mark Everett, director at the Marlowe, said this week: "I believe the theatre and all its achievements made Allan – a true Son of Kent – immensely proud and that is the highest accolade we could ask for."

He was chair of the Canterbury Cathedral Trust at the launch of its current fund raising campaign and was himself a major donor, giving more than £2 million pounds for restoration of the Great West Window and other renovation projects.

He was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Kent in 2002 and set out to modernise the ancient role, defining his Lieutenantcy's aims as being to provide a focus for county identity, unity and pride, give a sense of stability, recognise achievements, success and excellence, and promote service to others.

He and his wife Anne carried out hundreds of engagements and as a result of his innovations the Kent Lieutenantcy has been said to be 'a byword for best practice and leadership nationwide, a shining example to all other counties'.

He retired as Lord Lieutenant on his 75th birthday in August 2011.

Among his many honours, Mr Willett was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 1997 and a



HONOURED: Allan Willett held a host of prestigious titles in the county in which he lived and served



RESPECTED: Mr Willett accompanies the Queen during a visit to the county in his role as Lord Lieutenant

Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in the Queen's Birthday Honours List June 2011.

He was conferred an honorary degree of doctor of civil law at the University of Kent at Canterbury in July 2002, an honorary degree of doctor of laws of the University of Greenwich in July 2003 and an honorary fellow-

ship at Canterbury Christ Church College in May 2003. On his retirement as Lord Lieutenant he was presented by Kent County Council with the Invicta Award for his outstanding contribution to life in the county.

He was also a Knight of Justice in the Order of St. John, an Honorary Freeman of the City of Canterbury, an Am-

bassador for Kent, and was a former Honorary Colonel of the 3rd Battalion Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

He leaves his wife Anne, three children, three stepchildren, and 16 grandchildren. The funeral will be private and there will be a memorial service at Canterbury Cathedral at a later date.



Do changes to fracking rules by the Tories mean nowhere's safe?

A change by the Conservatives to regulations governing the types of areas protected from highly controversial shale gas fracking have been met with dismay by campaigners, writes **Jamie Weir...**

DRAFT regulations which look to alter the areas protected from fracking have been slammed by Kent campaigners fighting the controversial energy extraction method.

The new draft regulations fly in the face of a public commitment to "an outright ban on fracking in National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)" which the Coalition government made just a few months before this year's general election.

Instead of that 'outright ban', the new Conservative administration now says fracking can take place in areas designated as AONBs and National Parks, as long as it is done at least 1,200 metres below ground.

These designations are given to areas of countryside due to their visual importance. They normally result in restrictions on developments within the area boundaries.

The process of fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, has been controversial since it arrived in the UK. It is a means of extracting energy – normally shale gas – from the ground.

After a well is drilled, a mixture of water and chemicals – known as 'slick water' – is pumped down the borehole at high pressure. This fractures the rocks below, allowing gas or oil trapped inside to flow out.

Groups opposed to fracking say that it could cause serious problems for the environment, potentially contaminating water resources chemicals were to leech into drinking water sup-

plies. There are also fears they could trigger earthquakes or tremors.

In Kent, this has proved a particular concern to campaigners, with the vast majority of the county's drinking water – more than 70 per cent – drawn from major water aquifers which are deep underground.

Government has stated that the new rules are unlikely to cause problems though, as, it says, drinking water is not normally found below 400 metres underground.

The Government's announcement has sparked fury among many campaigners in the county, who are concerned the draft regulations reduce protection to parts of Kent which could come under threat.

South east campaigner at environmental group, Friends of the Earth, Brenda Pollack has worked on campaigns against fracking across the region, including in Cowden, near Edenbridge, which sits in the Weald of Kent AONB.

She told KoS: "It is outrageous that the Government has given the green light to fracking under places like the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and appears to be doing nothing to stop fracking in drinking water protection areas.

"This comes just after the Government's own report found that even indirect exposure to contaminated drinking water can pose serious risks to health."

The environmental group isn't alone in condemning the move, which many see as a U-turn by the Government.

Julie Wassmer, from Whitstable,



DRILL: Gas is present beneath us

has campaigned against fracking across the county.

She told KoS: "In January, the Government made a 'public commitment' to an outright ban on fracking in certain places. At the time I went on record as saying that this move was seen by campaigners largely as 'sop to the south' to help beleaguered Conservative MPs prior to the election.

"Barely two months on from the election and the Government has now performed a blatant U-turn which appears to vindicate my previous comment. Not only is fracking going to be allowed to take place beneath these beautiful areas of countryside, the Government has clearly tried to bury this news by announcing it only a few days before the parliamentary recess.

"Yet again, the people of this coun-

try who care deeply about protecting our precious environment – our National Parks, AONBs and SSSIs – from pollution and contamination are being denied proper consultation due to David Cameron's misguided policy of going 'all out for shale.'"

The issue of pollution, however, is something energy minister Andrea Leadsom takes issue with. She said there were a number of benefits to ensuring that fracking was not restricted in particular areas.

She said: "The UK has one of the best track records in the world when it comes to protecting our environment while also developing our industries – and we've brought that experience to bear on the shale gas protections.

"We need more secure, home grown energy supplies, and shale gas and oil have a vital role to play – much better that we use what we have at home than relying on supplies from volatile foreign imports.

"This industry will be developed safely with world class environmental protections, creating jobs and delivering better energy security while safeguarding some of our most precious landscapes."

Dover and Deal MP Charlie Elphicke told KoS that he was unable to understand why campaigners would oppose energy which is less polluting than many currently used.

The Conservative MP said: "I think fracking is something we should explore in principle. We need to have more low carbon energy generated like this, and I am absolutely passionate about making sure we do cut carbon emissions.

"I'm also passionate about ensuring stability of energy supplies, which currently, relying on the Russians, we don't have. Jobs would also be created if fracking takes place, which is crucial for the future of the economy.

"If done in the correct place, fracking is not likely to cause any problems. I find it strange that green supporters of wind turbines which despoil the landscape would object to energy which is low carbon and brings so many benefits to the country."

Mr Elphicke has however, fought fracking in his constituency in the past, arguing the safety of water resources, which could be polluted, were more important than extracting gas.

The company, Coastal Oil and Gas, which had been fighting for permission to drill in Guston, Shepherdswell, Tilmanstone and Woodnesborough has now handed back licences which allowed it to explore for gas.

Mrs Pollack, however, says that fracking would do more harm than good and that Government would be better placed to invest in future proofing energy generation.

She said: "Villagers in Kent have shown they don't want fracking for fossil fuels in their area and there is overwhelming opposition wherever fracking is proposed.

"Coastal Oil and Gas have now withdrawn, but they or other companies could come back at any time."

She added: "The sooner Government gets serious about renewables and energy efficiency, the safer we will be – and the quicker we can get on with addressing the urgent risk of climate change."



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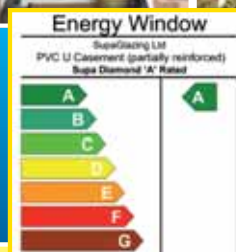
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Victim of blood contamination scandal hits out at latest blow

They have waited 30 years for justice, but hopes of a suitable compensation announcement last week were left in tatters after the Government once again delayed making any firm decision. A move which enraged a Kent victim of the fiasco

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A VICTIM of the blood contamination scandal has slammed what he calls the "dishonest and insulting" manner in which the Government is handling the issue after it fudged a vow to reveal details of a new compensation package.

Steve Dymond, 59, from Broadstairs, says the latest inaction was a "slap in the face" for all those affected by what one MP described as the "worse treatment scandal in the history of the NHS".

Promised an announcement in the House of Commons before Parliament went on summer recess, the announcement was instead sneaked out late last Friday in a short statement in the House of Lords.

It revealed little other than "no decisions have yet been made" on how to use £25million promised towards compensation payments and that a consultation into how to manage that money would be launched.

It also hinted, again, that the money would have to come out of the Department of Health budget, rather than any contingency fund.

But with those suffering from life-limiting illnesses, the latest delays sparked frustration and anger.

They also point out the £25m shared amongst the victims, dead and alive, would equate to just £3,300 each with nothing for the affected families. They say a fairer one-off compensation payment would be at least £500,000 each.

Some 7,500 people were infected – 2,000 of which have since died as a consequence.

Mr Dymond told KoS: "When Jeremy Hunt [health minister] said clearly on July 7 he would announce his plans to the House the fact there's a written statement tucked away in the Lords on a Friday afternoon is just a display of contempt. It was a slap in the face.

"I think there is a tired inevitability about it, but it was made more painful because there had been real progress recently, more action and engagement at Westminster, than there had been before.

"This is a bigger let down in that respect."

The statement, made by Lord Prior of Brampton, the Parliamentary under secretary of state in the Department of Health, said: "On March 25, the PM announced £25m would be allocated to ease transition to a reformed system of support for affected individuals. While

“It is a very unpleasant document written with total disdain and very foggily worded. It basically says we're not going to get anything for another two years...”

Su Gorman,

wife of blood victim Steve Dymond

no decisions have yet been made on how this money will be spent, I must emphasise the money will not be used for administrative costs, but will be used appropriately to support any transitional arrangements once we have consulted on how a new scheme might be structured.

"Transition to a reformed scheme remains a priority for the Government. Decisions on the overall Department of Health budget from 2016-17 onwards will be determined as part of the forthcoming spending review.

"While I understand beneficiaries to the current schemes may be frustrated by this wait, this is an extremely complex and sensitive area and any reform plans must be carefully considered before a consultation can be launched."

Adds Mr Dymond: "The use of the word 'beneficiaries' is insulting in itself. We are victims.

"We also find the suggestion that any compensation coming from the Department of Health's funds to be difficult to swallow. It is if they are trying to emotionally blackmail us by saying we can get compensation but it will have an impact on someone's else's treatment. It should come out of a different fund. It's sick thinking for the Department of Health."

The former teacher saw his career ruined after contracting hepatitis C after taking Factor VIII a blood product he has taken to treat his haemophilia. Using blood sourced from a variety of donors, it was injected to give his blood the chance to clot as a precaution before events such as a trip to the dentist.

However, the blood used during the 1970s and 80s was often sourced from the US where firms keen to sell blood to combat a shortage in the UK would obtain donations from prisoners, the homeless and drug addicts. As a conse-



FIGHTING: Steve Dymond says he refuses to give up the fight for justice for the thousands, like him, infected by the NHS blood scandal of the 1960s through to 1980s. Pic: PAUL BENNETT

quence, many were infected with diseases such as HIV or hepatitis C, which attacks the liver.

Mr Dymond has suffered cirrhosis

of the liver and suffered a recent cancer scare as a result.

He and his wife Su Gorman are forced to live with her elderly mother

as a result of his illness, lost the ability to have children, and feels he and others like him are once again being treated like second class citizens.

Ms Gorman said: "It makes haemophiliacs feel they are worthless by their government and their country."

"It is a very unpleasant document

written with total disdain and very foggily worded and basically says

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we're not going to get anything for another two years."

Labour MP for Kingston Upon Hull North, Diana Johnson, said in the Commons this week: "This is the worst treatment scandal in the history of the NHS."

"At 2pm last Friday, a written statement was laid in the House of Lords. In short, it means no extra help for victims for at least two more years. Tabling it in the other place when the Commons was not sitting was very shabby indeed."

Existing organisations which make payments to victims have, in the past, been criticised for being not fit for purpose.

Only 20 per cent of those infected with hepatitis receive just £14,000 a year currently. Payments are worked out on the severity of their liver damage – something which infuriates many, leading to division among those suffering.

Sue Threakall, co-chair of Tainted Blood, a support and pressure group for victims, said: "This is about achieving a full, fair and final settlement that will enable those infected and the bereaved to achieve financial independence. Any organisation set up in place of the current trusts should be there solely to administer payments, reassess people should health/circumstances deteriorate and provide access to other services such as counselling."

"Before a consultation is launched campaign groups who possess a wealth of knowledge should be consulted over what should be included in it to ensure that vital areas are not omitted."



KOS SAYS: IT'S TIME TO PULL YOUR FINGERS OUT AND DELIVER JUSTICE

THIS latest development on this terrible, terrible scandal is just the latest slap in the face for people who, through no fault of their own, have had their health stolen from them by the very people who should be protecting them – the NHS.

But this latest cack-handed insensitivity – sneaking out an eagerly anticipated announcement in the Lords on a Friday afternoon rather than in a packed House of Commons earlier in the week – reeks of a Government afraid to face the fact it owes those affected justice.

These are people who have had the course of their lives altered by the failure to check blood used in a range of products – particularly vulnerable are those haemophiliacs

who already had to contend with an illness where any bleeding posed a very real threat to their lives. The treatment they thought was helping them, was, in many tragic cases, actually signing their death warrant.

Some 7,500 were infected – and thousands have already died; their families left devastated and without any proper compensation. Many now struggle to make ends meet.

Those who survived have to face living with HIV or hepatitis C and all the restrictions that brings.

Jobs have been lost, hopes of children denied, and futures made uncertain.

For 30 years they have fought for justice and largely been ignored. Now their voices are being heard.

And their plight cannot be ignored any more. The Government's failure to announce anything of significance is as insulting as it is weak-willed.

Now is the time for the few thousand who survive, and the families left behind, to receive a suitable settlement – funded not from the already under pressure health service's coffers, but from a contingency fund.

The power to consign this disgraceful chapter in the NHS' history books behind it, is in the hands of the current Government. Now is the time to show decisive leadership and make amends not just plot a series of delaying tactics which stab at the very heart those have suffered enough.



CAMPAIGN: KoS has called for Government action in a series of special articles in recent months

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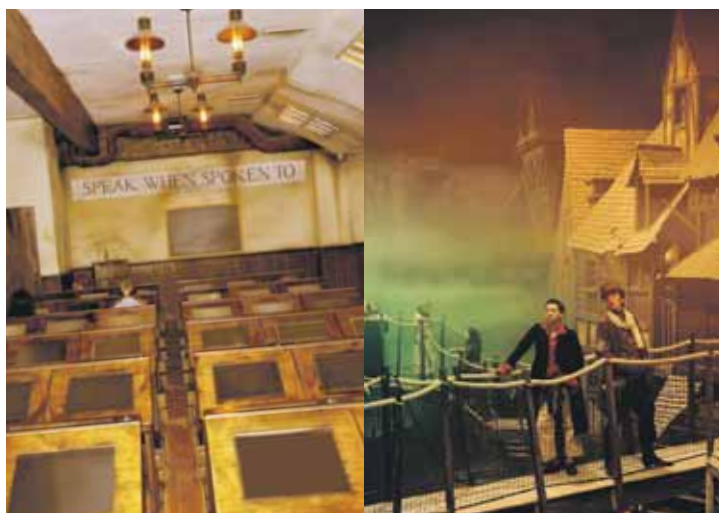
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Will cross-Channel protests put holiday traffic under pressure?

Maria Chiorando looks at the latest situation at our ports and with Operation Stack on the busy M20

A STHOUSANDS prepared for the great summer holiday getaway this weekend, the threat of Operation Stack causing major travel disruption seems now almost inevitable.

Within hours of hopes problems on the busy Dover to Calais were set to be resolved - with striking French ferry workers leaving the MyFerryLink boats they had occupied thus putting the squeeze on ferry capacity - more industrial action at the entrance to the Eurotunnel terminal in France caused yet more problems.

If that wasn't bad enough, attempts by migrants to storm the tunnel in Coquelles on Thursday morning caused yet more delays for the tunnel operators.

All of which meant Operation Stack returned on Wednesday morning and was expected to remain until at least today (Sunday). It had only been lifted last Saturday after causing its now predictable problems for most of the previous week.

The problem continues to be related to the closure of MyFerryLink - a subsidiary of Eurotunnel forced to close after a lengthy row over competition issues on the route. Run by a French co-operative, the majority of the hundreds of jobs lost are on the other side of the Channel.

Some will be saved, however, after rival operator DFDS agreed to take over two of the former MyFerryLink vessels. However, they have been stuck at Calais as part of the protest - forcing the firm to only operate to Dunkirk. Following a meeting at the ministry of transport in Paris on Monday, with union SCOP Sea-



QUEUES: Stack was back once again this week with a section of the M20 closed. Picture: PAUL BENNETT

France, Groupe Eurotunnel and DFDS, it was announced that the blockade in Calais was lifted and the port of Calais re-opened at noon on the Tuesday.

But no sooner had that issue eased, than the industrial action impacting on Eurotunnel resumed.

Explains Tim Waggott, chief executive of the Port of Dover: "The Port of Dover handles 13 million passengers each year. That is the equivalent of more than the UK's fifth busiest airport - Luton."

"Would we allow the majority of

services from one of our major airports to be curtailed for several days during the summer because of a few militant French workers? Of course not."

Donald Armour is the manager of international affairs at the Freight Transport Association (FTA), based in Tunbridge Wells and representing many of those who find themselves struck on the M20 when the motorway is transformed into a giant lorry park.

"This is as bad as it's been for years," he explains. "Sometimes you get bad weather, or technical prob-

lems, but that usually wraps up after a few hours or a day. But when you have a situation like you have had recently, with industrial action, it will last longer."

So far, non-freight traffic has been able to get across the Channel with only minimal delays, with freight bearing the brunt. However, with the volumes now set to rocket with holidaymakers, there are concerns they could find themselves caught up in the chaos.

To add to the pressure in and around the ports, there are further



major events in the county taking place this weekend which will add pressure to the roads.

The M2 will see increased traffic as the Whitstable Oyster Festival gets under way, while some 100,000 visitors are expected to head down the M20 for the hugely popular War and Peace Revival show at Folkestone Racecourse.

Show organisers are remaining stoic in the face of possible problems, with a spokesperson saying the show will 'carry on regardless'.

She said: "We are lucky that the A20 runs alongside the M20 and passes directly by the racecourse so all exhibitors, campers and public can take the turning at junction eight and follow the signs for the A20, taking you past the turning to Leeds Castle."

"There are also other routes including using the M2 motorway."

"Alternatively, don't forget we have a mainline train station immediately next door to the racecourse."

■ What do you think? Join the debate and share your views email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

FENCE AROUND CALAIS PORT 'NOT ENOUGH'

A SO-CALLED ring of steel being put up around the port of Calais to prevent migrants from breaking in and trying to board lorries, will 'help' but not solve the problem, objectors say.

The UK is spending some £12m strengthening its border in France, including an additional two miles of high security fencing, reaching nine feet into the air around the busy port.

Works has started on the 'national barrier asset' and it should be finished by the end of the month.

But the thousands of migrants camped near the port remain determined to make the final leg of their journey to the UK.

Folkestone MP Damian Collins has been a vocal opponent to the situation in Calais and has long been calling on the French authorities to take control of their border and stop migrants from constant attempts to breach security.

He told us: "The fence is a necessary improvement to the security and will make a difference to the day to day running of the Calais port and Eurotunnel."

"But the French authorities have also got to do their job properly. The perimeters of the fence have to be policed and we cannot have a repeat of the shameful scenes where striking ferry workers were able to cut through high security fences under the nose of the authorities."

On that occasion, burning tyres were placed on the Eurotunnel tracks, cancelling trains and creating chaos on Kent roads with the implementation of Operation Stack. There were further angry scenes this week with fires on the approach road to the terminal.

Eurotunnel said the solution needs to be found elsewhere in Europe.

A spokesman said: "The fencing is a welcome addition to security in

Calais but on its own will not stop the migrant crisis, just shift the problem to another location."

"The governments need to do much more to process and remove the migrants already in Calais and to stop any more arriving. They need to dismantle the gangs of criminal traffickers and stop the flows from countries of origin across the Sahara and Mediterranean. A fence can't do that."

It is estimated around 4,000 migrants are camping in Calais and making almost daily attempts to reach the UK. The population grows by around 150 a day.

The EU rule is that anyone wanting to claim asylum have to do so in the first European country they enter after leaving their own. But many travel overland to reach the UK.

UK government figures reckon 18,170 people were caught trying to get into the UK in the first five months of this year.



CONTROL: Migrants attempt to enter the UK from Calais every day

Tragedy of the human guinea pigs of biological experiments

A University of Kent professor of modern history has penned a fascinating, and disturbing, book about biological warfare experiments conducted on those serving their country. **Molly Kersey** speaks to him to find out more...

IN May 1953, 20-year-old Ronald Maddison agreed to take part in a medical experiment at a Government military science park in Wiltshire.

A leading aircraftman – a junior role in the RAF – he had volunteered to take part in a bid to help serve his nation and earn a few extra pounds.

What he could never imagine is that within hours the chemical he was treated with would kill him.

Because Ronald Maddison was one of a number of servicemen who offered themselves for experiments at Porton Down, a hotbed for chemical and biological warfare research.

His story, and many others, are revealed in a book by Ulf Schmidt, professor of modern history at the University of Kent, entitled *Secret Science: A Century of Poison Warfare and Human Experiments*.

The book explores a number of secret experiments conducted in the name of military research during the 1950s and 60s – and how the medical ethics of experimentation have evolved.

The book details how Mr Maddison and the other volunteers had been taken to the research facility, wearing gas masks and two pieces of cloth tied loosely over their forearms.

They knew little of what was being tested on them.

A dose of 200mg of pure sarin was applied from a pipette onto the cloth on the inside of the left forearm, before the men were observed for 30 minutes.

Sarin is a colourless, odourless chemical created for biological warfare by attacking the nervous system.

Mr Maddison soon began sweating and said he felt ill.

His condition quickly deteriorated and an ambulance was called.

The young man stopped breathing, his skin reportedly turned blue and he died in hospital, despite frantic attempts to revive him.

Explains Professor Schmidt: "They carried out these experiments after they found out German scientists had discovered and developed nerve agents in the 1930s.

"From a scientific perspective it was

important to determine what the potentially lethal dosage was if one was to use it. The chemicals were very flexible in their make up, meaning you could use them for ground contamination if you wanted to make sure a total area was contaminated and troops couldn't walk across it.

"They could be used in a very fine way and dispersed through the air, thereby intoxicating and being used as an agent that people would inhale. The range of their use was considerable, which meant a degree of flexibility from a military perspective.

"At a basic level – if you know how much agent you need to kill one person you know you can extrapolate from there."

As for Mr Maddison? Adds the professor: "He might have been particularly susceptible to the agents."

But why put yourself forward for such experiments?

"There is a whole range of motives for these servicemen. There are broad motives, like serving the wider public good and doing a national service, es-

pecially after the Second World War," explained Professor Schmidt.

"But other motives were quite simple – so they could spend some time with their family and friends before going to Porton Down. Also at the time we are talking about a little bit of extra money. They could have used that money to take their girlfriends to the cinema. They didn't have much money, and just a little bit extra allowed them to visit their mum or dad.

"The service they were doing – looking after aircraft – was extremely boring, so actually going to Porton, although they didn't have a full understanding of what it meant, was certainly a change of scenery and something different."

And, crucially, they had faith that the people they were trusting with their bodies would not do them any harm.

Professor Schmidt's book delves into the importance of informed consent in experiments – something which was clearly missing from this one – and how damaging it was to the

men not to have been given it.

"It would have eroded their trust in the authority and trust in the land for which they were serving," he said.

"They are, and were, very patriotic people and their service was not only not recognised but was being exploited. Talking to many of them that often came through, they had a real difficulty once this had happened to them to trust both people and authority generally.

"If you talk to the veterans, it's not



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CONSENT: Did servicemen know the real dangers they faced? The University of Kent's Professor Ulf Schmidt and his fascinating, and disturbing, new book

that they didn't want to do a service for their country. Quite the opposite, that's why they volunteered, but they volunteered with the assumption that no harm would be done to them."

Mr Maddison's death, along with allegations that other test participants were not properly informed and were misled about the reality of the experiments they were taking part in – were investigated by

police during Operation Antler from 1999 to 2004.

Since then, the UK government awarded compensation and an apology to 670 veterans.

In 2004, Professor Schmidt was appointed by HM Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon as one of the principle expert witnesses on informed consent in the inquest looking into the death of Mr Maddison.

Speaking about the long-term impact of the experiments on the men involved, he said: "It's extremely difficult to link exposure of an element to health complications which a person may suffer 10, 20 or 30 years later. There were a number of servicemen who complained in the 1960s and 1970s.

"If you compare the community of veterans who were exposed to these

agents with other veterans of the same age often overall they have a poorer quality of life. I raised that issue in the final chapter, which I called the politics of memory.

"What we often forget is once it became clear to the veterans what they had been exposed to and they were allowed to talk about it because it became part of a public debate, it became clear that their

families suffered as part of this. "You may have had a husband who was abrasive or every now and then wasn't well or they may have had problems conceiving. There are wives behind these stories that had to endure this for many, many years."

The book begins with a quote from JF Mayne, Permanent Secretary to Secretary of State for Air, made on September 15, 1959.

"If we tell them that the experiments could be lethal there would inevitably be a sharp fall off in numbers, and probably a degree of embarrassing publicity," it reads.

"On the other hand, if no more warning of the danger is given than at present, we may be rightly accused of deliberate misrepresentation in the future."

Professor Schmidt said: "This quote gives an indication, and quite a strong one, that senior members of the government were well aware that servicemen weren't given the full information from these tests and there is a considerable degree of intent behind it.

"That was quite a powerful find because it throws a very different light on these experiments. It's much more sinister.

"I used it as an example for the whole range of experiments that were conducted over a very long period.

"If you look at that period as a whole, from the 1920s to the 1980s, there are a considerable number of tests within which one could argue that informed consent was not being supplied to the servicemen."

■ **Secret Science: A Century of Poison Warfare and Human Experiments is £19.99 and available to buy from Amazon.**

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Has solar had its day in the sun?

The use of solar farms in the Garden of England has polarised opinion but now the refusal of planning permission for a 37-acre site at Pluckley means protesters hope a shadow has been cast over their future in the county, writes **Jamie Weir**...

SOLAR farms have always been controversial in Kent, with people lining up on both sides of the argument on where they should go, but after a recent proposal was refused by a planning inspector, campaigners hope the days of swathes of solar panels in our countryside are numbered.

The solar farm in question had been proposed for land on Dowle Street in Pluckley, near Ashford, and if given the green light it would have covered 37 acres of land.

Paul Smith was part of the Pluckley Solar Group which spearheaded

the fight against the application from company Sunsave 8.

Mr Smith told KoS he was hopeful the refusal had set a planning precedent.

He said: "The location of the proposed solar farm was on a greenfield (not previously developed) site that's productive agricultural land, which is something that I believe is important for food security in the future."

"It seems the planning inspector agreed with us, saying that large-scale solar should not go in an area like that."

"I think that things have changed for solar, and we're likely to see less of

it in the future in Kent. Government is moving away from throwing money – in the form of subsidies – to renewable energy generation now that it is seeing how high the bill is."

This week, the energy minister Amber Rudd further distanced herself from using public cash to help fund solar technology announcing that solar, as well as other renewable technologies, would get less subsidies in the future.

She said: "My priorities are clear. We need to keep bills as low as possible for hardworking families and businesses while reducing our emissions in the most cost-effective way."

"Our support has driven down the cost of renewable energy significantly. As costs continue to fall it becomes easier for parts of the renewables industry to survive without subsidies. We're taking action to protect consumers, while protecting existing investment"

Despite the energy minister saying the industry should be able to survive without Government help, the announcement met with fury from supporters of renewable technology.

Green Party MEP for the south east, Keith Taylor, said that it showed the Government's lack of any kind of sustainable energy strategy.

Mr Taylor said: "Amber Rudd's incoherence in blindly supporting nuclear subsidies whilst cutting renewable funding is breathtaking."

"Nuclear has an expensive history the government seems incapable of learning lessons from, while renewables offer sustainable cleaner energy with thousands of jobs."

"In the face of our commitments to reduce carbon emissions and the forthcoming UN climate talks in Paris, these cuts are environmental vandalism of the first order."

The solar industry hasn't reacted well to the news either, with Jamie Thompson, the north and east Kent

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FUTURE?: Green MEP Keith Taylor (left) CPRE Kent Director Hilary Newport (centre) and KCC Cllr Mike Baldock

director of renewable installer, Energy My Way, saying that the announcement was unhelpful.

Mr Thompson told KoS: "The Government announcement certainly hasn't helped the industry. It stifles growth and creates a great deal of uncertainty for investors and businesses working in solar.

"Last time subsidies dropped a lot of solar companies went out of business. Any new drops in subsidies affect the market and could lead to other businesses having to close their doors.

"The news that is currently coming from Government does seem to indicate an attack on solar farms, and in the past few months the renewables industry does seem to have taken quite a kicking."

One group which is unlikely to be too concerned by commercial solar farms losing business is rural charity, the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

It has long waged war in planning committees against solar farms sprawling across the countryside.

The charity's local group, CPRE

Kent – based in Charing – says the problem across the county has been worse than in many other parts of the country.

Director of the charity, Hilary Newport, said that the hits to subsidies had led to fewer solar parks being planned across Kent, but that it had not stopped them being proposed and built.

She said: "While we support green energy, we are committed to protecting our best agricultural land for food production and will always oppose the loss of this to solar farms.

"We believe there are huge opportunities for solar energy using existing and new buildings – factories, warehouses and new homes – and this should be the priority rather than using up large areas of countryside. Applications for solar farms are declining because of the changes to subsidies but have not stopped and we will continue to work to protect our best farmland to ensure food security for all."

However the industry body, the Solar Trade Association (STA) – which lobbies Government on behalf of solar developers – argues the industry is still seeing significant growth, just not as much in its traditional area of larger solar developments.

Sonia Dunlop, the public affairs officer for the STA, told KoS: "Solar is still the most popular form of renewable energy, and in fact, the most popular way of generating electricity out of all of them according to a public survey.

"However, the landscape for solar has changed in the past few years, with Government recently closing part of the subsidies for large scale solar farms. That has meant bigger schemes are in decline, but smaller schemes are growing instead."

Dwindling subsidies, according to Mike Baldock, a Ukip councillor at Kent County Council, are the primary factor for fewer solar farms being proposed.

He told KoS: "When there was a pot of gold available, these things were springing up everywhere. Now those subsidies have dwindled, the interest is waning. During the boom time, there were developers putting the solar farms up, getting Government money, and then selling them

on to other people. Now there are nowhere near as many people interested in developing them in the first place, because they're not a licence to print money."

Despite that, the councillor doesn't feel that the Government has made any other moves to limit the spread of solar.

He told KoS: "Although there have been ministerial statements which have been fairly negative about solar, I wouldn't have thought it has actually changed anything.

"Planning hasn't changed, and no-one really trusts what ministers say at this point, so I shouldn't have thought it would have affected any developers from proposing a solar farm if they wanted to do so.

"However, KCC has put together a large document on how to query solar farm developments, so there is perhaps a bit more interest in looking at solar farms a bit more carefully."

In fact, says Mr Thompson, although the industry as a whole appears to have been under attack by Government, it is still doing okay.

He told KoS: "What we need is a clear roadmap for energy from Government. Uncertainty has been the biggest problem throughout.

"Despite that, the industry does seem healthy right now and there is certainly positivity. We're very busy at the moment, but this is a very politically driven industry, with the words of politicians affecting developments. That's the way the industry has always been; it goes up and down.

"We just have to wait and see whether Government makes some better announcements soon."

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Stunning Pluto landscapes are out of this world, say astronomers

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

STARGAZERS across the county have described it as a "glorious time to be an astronomer" after incredible images of the planet Pluto were beamed back to Earth by a Nasa probe.

As scientists on the mission continue to digest the remarkable information gathered on the New Horizons mission, those who study the heavens locally say they have been thrilled by the findings.

Jason Hall is the general secretary of the Ashford Astronomical Society.

He explained: "The photographs mark the culmination of an epic, nine year, three billion mile journey to arguably the most enigmatic world in the solar system.

"During the flight, Pluto was actually declassified to the status of Dwarf Planet by the International Astronomical Union.

"The mission in every sense was a long shot.

"Considering the Pluto system resides in a brutally frigid back water of the solar system, we could have been forgiven for expecting to arrive at a featureless, frozen, dead and somewhat God forsaken object.

"What New Horizons actually



LAUNCH: Mission took off in 2006

discovered was anything but. "Pluto and its satellites are already rewriting what we understand about planet formation and what is possible.

"We have discovered that parts of the Plutonian surface is under 100,000 years old, which means that it is still geologically active.

"This was thought to be impossible on a body of this size with no external power source. The colours and surface features are incredible, especially the heart-shaped Regio Tombaugh, named after the planet's discoverer.

"We have also seen 11,000ft ice mountains and strange troughs which need to be explained. What a glorious time to be an astronomer."



EXPLORE: Stunning images have been returned of the planet Pluto captured by the probe. All pictures: NASA

Ian Hargraves is the chairman of the Mid-Kent Astronomical Society.

He told us: "The flyby of Pluto is really significant as it now completes our reconnaissance of the major bodies in the solar system.

"It is also showing that Pluto has formed a spherical object due to gravity, which is one of the qualifying criteria for a planet. So that should be all those arguments laid to rest.

"New Horizons is now well passed Pluto and speeding on to encounter the Kuiper Belt where it is believed there will be many more bodies the size of Pluto."

Will Hughes is vice chairman of the Mid-

Kent group and has a master of science qualification from Queen Mary University of London where he specialised in glaciations.

He told us: "The images which have been returned to Earth over the last couple of weeks and will continue to be transmitted back for several weeks to come, are truly astonishing.

"Perhaps one of the most fascinating things that has been discovered so far is that the surface of Pluto appears to be highly variable in nature, from vast smooth plains, to sheer cliffs and icy mountains.

"There is a distinct lack of cratering on Pluto, which suggests that these may have been removed by some form of physical

or geological process.

"This has come as a complete surprise to many because at such a great distance from the Sun, where temperatures are well below 200-degrees Celsius, the prospect of finding any evidence of surface activity was thought to be extremely low.

"Whether Pluto is currently active remains to be discovered."

He added: "Our members have been discussing Pluto for many months now and there will be two related talks at the society later this year by myself on September 25 and another by Guy Hurst, the editor of Astronomer magazine, on October 30."

For details on how to attend, see www.midkentaastro.org.uk.



DETAIL: Amazing detail, above, has delighted scientists, below





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Berry nice: Cherry crop booming

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHERRY growers in the county are expecting a bumper crop this summer courtesy of ideal growing conditions and more and more farmers planting trees.

The county has long been a hotspot for the soft fruit, with more than 2,000 people flocking to the annual cherry festival at Brogdale, near Faversham, last weekend.

Emma Croucher at Mid-Kent Growers, a co-operative of commercial fruit growers in the county which covers 18 growers and 38 farms, told KoS: "It really is a bumper crop this year.

"We believe it is down to the weather and many of the trees are reaching maturity.

"Kent really is at the hub of the national cherry growing market, and we plan to keep it that way.

"As well as tasting great, they do have plenty of health benefits too, so everyone should be eating them. Seeing the market steadily grow, it seems people understand this and want to experience them for themselves."

The British cherry season will be worth around £32 million this year, up from £27m last year, thanks to a bumper 4,500 plus tonnes crop.

In the 1960s, however, the industry was in a very different state. Traditional Kent cherry orchards were

phased out because low yields made production uneconomic.

Supermarkets increasingly imported cherries from Turkey, Spain and the US while British varieties became scarce.

But the tables are now turning with a 20 per cent increase in yield in 2014 and another rise this year from 4,000 to 4,500 tonnes.

Helped, in part, by the season being extended by the use of poly-tunnels.

One major grower is Tom Hulme who is now growing world-class cherries well beyond the traditional season.

The 37-year-old, who runs AC Hulme and Sons at Hoaden Court, Hoaden, near Canterbury, said: "Back in the 1960s cherries were a totally new crop for the family and we were very apprehensive.

"We decided to give it a go and I'm so glad we did. It's now become a hugely popular fruit – we just can't keep up with demand which is encouraging as you know nothing is going to waste.

"The tunnels protect the cherries from the worst of the British summer and the dwarf trees make the fruits easier to pick, manage and protect from birds."

Efforts to further boost output and continuing work to extend the relatively short season mean Kent's produce should be in the supermarket shelves into September.

With the massive costs of planting



POPULAR: Demand for cherries is growing and it is a new crop of young farmers leading the drive forward

rootstocks, tunnels, and drip irrigation and two years wait for first fruits, it will take up to six years for full crops to be realised.

Industry spokesman Nicholas Marston said: "It seems to be the farmer's sons and daughters who are branching out in to the cherry market as they're keen to do something different and as they're just starting out they're not concerned about making a long term investment.

"These young farmers are full of youthful enthusiasm which is resulting in larger crops that are in turn boosting the UK economy."

There are plenty of health benefits to the fruit. A 100g helping of cherries provides 25 per cent of the recommended daily intake of Vitamin C, plus they are a rich food source of the melatonin which promotes healthy sleep patterns.



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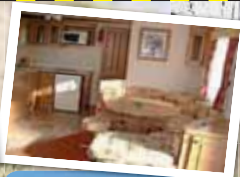
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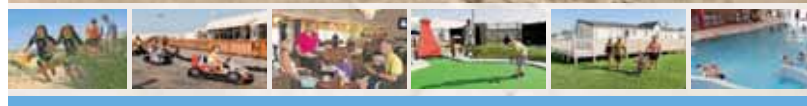
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Stack can't keep the tanks and crowds from War and Peace

Despite closures on parts of the M20, thousands made their way to the world's largest military vehicle show, as **Molly Kersey** reports...

THOUSANDS of people made their way to the War and Peace show this week, a five-day long event which marks past and present battles and features an impressive range of military vehicles, re-enactments and exhibits.

The opening day on Wednesday saw clear skies and sunshine – and the implementation of Operation Stack on the M20.

But organisers said people were still flocking to the Folkestone Racecourse despite this.

Organisers Rex Cadman and Barbara Shea said: "What a fantastic day we have had, with around 1,000 local school children attending our sixth annual schools' day."

"We're delighted with the amount of people who have come along despite Operation Stack – true British spirit."

The event marks the last under the leadership of the duo, with John Allison announced as the new organiser.

The event is the world's largest collection of military vehicles.

Captain James Titchener, from HQ Company 3PWRR, based in Canterbury, said: "To have such a large military show here in Kent is great. It allows the public a chance to see lots of re-enactors who really put a lot into their little shows and demonstrations; a super bit of 'living history'. It also gives us, the Armed Forces another opportunity to show off and interact with the general public."

"Members of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment – PWRR – also known as the TIGERS have been in the Main Arena over the weekend flexing their muscles. The soldiers and Non Commissioned Officers conducted an 'section attack' infantry demonstration."

Writer Penny Legg was signing copies of her books in the Victory Marquee. Her books include Under the Queen's Colours and Military



MILITARY: Vehicles were on display.

Wives: From WW1 to Afghanistan.

She said: "I love coming here because I meet the military community. My husband is ex-Royal Navy. I know lots of military people."

"There is also a chance to meet the public who read these books to find out what they think. I love the fact that so much happens under one roof."

"I think this event is very important. You keep what happened alive and it is important the next generation understand what the past is so they know how we got to where we are."

Barbara Welch was exhibiting in the Great War Exhibition with Kent in WW1 – a Heritage Lottery Funded project featuring information about 20 towns during the War.

She said: "It's the second year we have exhibited here. Last year was the first year they had this WW1 tent so I think it's really positive. School children enjoy it and it's quite interactive, we had a quiz trail with a small prize for the winner. It's great to be here."



SHOWCASE: Re-enactors put on shows and demonstrations for the crowds to enjoy.



“ I think this event is very important. You keep what happened alive and it is important the next generation understand what the past is ”

Penny Legg,
Writer

POPULAR: Thousands of people attended the event.

All pictures by PAUL BENNETT.



HISTORY: Visitors to the show were able to view living history and vintage fashions.



TANKS: Battle tanks carried out demonstrations.



ATMOSPHERE: The five day programme is packed with a number of different events for visitors to enjoy.



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SEQUEL: The show tells the story of what happens next for characters Bobby and Laura.

Musical rocks up with sounds of the Sixties

Our verdict on Dreamboats and Miniskirts after
a week-long run in Canterbury comes to an end

REVIEW by Molly Kersey

Dreamboats & Miniskirts at the Marlowe Theatre

THE Sixties was an era packed full of iconic and unforgettable hits, which have been loved and sung along to for decades since.

So it is no surprise really that Dreamboats and Miniskirts, which encompasses the songs of the era, contains more music than dialogue.

The musical keeps it light, and includes songs which get the audience clapping and tapping their feet – such as Pretty Woman, Twist and Shout, I Only Want To Be With You and Do You Love Me.

The sequel to Dreamboats and Petticoats, which made its premiere in 2009, tells the story of what happened to characters Laura, Bobby, Norman, Sue, Donna and Ray.

But if you haven't seen the first play, fear not. It is pretty easy to catch up and it is the music, rather than the storyline, that is the real highlight of the performance.

The prequel saw Laura and Bobby release their number one single Dreamboats and Petticoats, but their career now seems to be at something of a standstill.

After an embarrassing malfunction during a TV performance, Bobby ditches Laura at the TV studio and goes back to join his old youth club band The Conquests, in the hope of finding fame with them instead.

They recruit Norman, who has settled into a home with Sue and has a baby on the way, as their lead singer.

The fun-loving couple are portrayed very well by Alastair Hill and Laura Darton, and the way that Sue supports Norman, persuading him to follow his dreams rather than re-

signing himself to a future of working down the drains, is actually quite touching.

With the help of a record producer, and one of Laura's songs, the band try and push themselves into the limelight.

Set in 1963, the production shows music and the world at large changing, with the advent of The Beatles and the Merseyside sound inspiring many musicians.

This leads to moments of humour that make the audience chuckle as The Conquests adjust their sound accordingly – such as observations that smash hit song House of the Rising Sun 'wasn't likely to make the charts' and that legendary chart-toppers The Beatles, were 'unlikely to be around in five years'.

Despite a few hitches for the characters along the way – including a particularly heated exchange between Laura and Bobby which ends with her slamming his guitar into an amp – the musical has a happy ending for everyone involved.

It is especially nice to see Donna and Ray get the 'happily ever after' that they deserve, and it is good to see Laura striking out on her own and becoming a success.

In fact, the only part of the musical that remains confusing for me is why Laura would reunite with Bobby.

After her dramatic transformation, new found confidence and three number ones, it seems odd she would go back to someone who stole her song and left her in a TV studio.

"You don't understand female psychology do you?" she asks him at one point.

You can say that again.

Still, given their history and all they have been through together – something which is referred to at numerous points throughout – I suppose there are worse endings for a musical to have.



PROGRESS: We need to build new homes to cater for a booming population - but organisations remain opposed to the manner in which the sites to build on are identified

Housing planning changes set to usher in new era of development

Jamie Weir takes a look at the latest twist in the on-going saga of just where to build vital new homes

OF ALL the on-going political hot potatoes communities and local authorities juggle with on a daily basis, housing is surely the most contentious.

The situation is simple – our population is booming and accommodation is needed. The problem is exactly where to put those extra homes.

And in an area such as Kent, which prides itself on its beautiful, unspoilt countryside – the issue of just which land is selected to build on continues to engage and enrage in equal measure.

For those long-supporting a move away from building on previously unused greenfield sites, a new initiative may be welcomed.

Business minister Sajid Javid recently announced the Government would – as part of its 'productivity plan' – slim down planning rules in certain areas of the country in order to get Britain building.

The plans will see new zones created which will allow proposed development on previously developed – or brownfield – land to go ahead without requiring planning permission.

The belief is that it would speed up development on land – crucial after official figures showed that building rates had sunk by 5.8 per cent in May.

Tunbridge Wells MP and communities minister Greg Clark, says the new proposals would drive homebuilding.

Mr Clark said: "The top-down targets of the past planning system did nothing to deliver the homes our

country needs. In contrast, putting local people in control has led to record numbers of homes being granted permission and support for housebuilding to grow.

"The proposals ensure we go further and faster, removing the barriers so we can keep the country building and support hard-working people to achieve their dream of home ownership."

Perhaps unsurprisingly, developers in the county have been quick to welcome the new streamlining of the rules.

Nick Fenton, the chairman of lobbying organisation the Kent Developers' Group says the new initiative will help get more homes built – something key in a county which has seen significant house price rises due to its popularity.

The group represents around 200 different landowners and developers across Kent and Medway.

Mr Fenton said that supply had been a cause for dramatic house price rises, saying that although developers were trying to build, they often faced hurdles.

He said: "The biggest issue facing developers is delays in getting decisions on applications. Proposals to speed up the processing of planning applications should help with that, as will the brownfield development, but we need everyone to be in the same tent and pushing for the same ideals."

One group, perhaps surprisingly, with one foot in that tent is rural campaign group CPRE Kent.

The group fights against develop-

“ More needs to be done to incentivise developers to build on suitable brownfield sites rather than cherry pick greenfield sites as the easier option ”

Dr Hilary Newport,
CPRE Kent

ment which it considers inappropriate, or unsustainable.

Its director, Hilary Newport, says the new brownfield rules will help to protect other, undeveloped – or greenfield – sites in the future.

Dr Newport said: "We are pleased that the Government is emphasising its support for brownfield development as we have long been calling for a brownfield first policy and want to see town centres revitalised and the countryside protected. We believe more needs to be done to incentivise developers to build on suitable brownfield sites rather than cherry pick greenfield sites as the easier option."

Despite the optimism, Dr Newport says that the new zones will still require vetting, and local input to ensure that housing isn't built in inappropriate areas.

She said: "Each site still needs to be considered carefully and community views sought as there could be land-

scape designations or other constraints such as ensuring adequate social infrastructure. We are calling for more say for communities and call on the Government to give more support and funding to neighbourhood planning."

Ensuring each site is vetted carefully before allowing building is crucial when some brownfield sites harbour large numbers of environmentally important species.

Lodge Hill is one such site, which, as the former Chattenden Army barracks, was promoted for development as a brownfield site. The RSPB fought any development at the site, due to its importance for nightingale populations, which use the site during their migration each year.

Spokesman for the charity, Tim Webb told KoS there were concerns about the Government proposals.

He said: "We're concerned but at present we still have the European Nature Directives to protect birds and habitats."

"Much brownfield land does have huge biodiversity value and some of it is much more biodiverse than protected areas. Our greatest concern is fragmentation of habitats at a time when we're working hard to restore links between places."

"Connectivity is important for wildlife. Without it, species can become isolated and slowly die-out. There are a number of initiatives where conservationists, developers, farmers or landowners are working together to ensure healthy habitats because we collectively recognise that a good en-

vironment is better for people and nature and therefore better for communities and the economy."

It wasn't just brownfield building the business secretary was promoting.

He also introduced measures, which he said would get the country building more homes across the board.

One of these was to impose sanctions on councils which failed to decide planning applications quickly enough.

A Swale Borough Council spokesman said that currently, there was not enough detail to know what it would mean for councils.

He said: "We are waiting to find out more information about the proposals, so we can assess what impact they could have on the borough. Hopefully we'll have a clearer idea in the next few weeks as more details are published."

Although they both welcome the Government's push for brownfield building, Dr Newport and Nick Fenton differ markedly when it comes to the numbers of homes which need to be built.

Mr Fenton said: "Currently we're delivering just half of what everybody says we require."

"In the south east region, 200,000 new homes are required between now and 2021. We're only seeing half of that being built right now."

Dr Newport said: "The Government needs to support councils aiming for realistic numbers of new homes rather than allowing them to reach targets by identifying greenfield sites."

Churchill's gun tunnels back on show after 70 years

White Cliff's secret wartime defences now open to public but they are not the faint-hearted warns **Chris Murphy...**

A LABYRINTH of underground tunnels within the White Cliffs of Dover, dug on the orders of Winston Churchill, have finally been opened to the public.

But after 40 years of closure, those wanting to be part of the first tours are warned they have to be in good health, fit and not afraid of the dark.

Some 23 metres below the surface, the tunnels were constructed in the 1940s as part of Dover's connected offensive and defensive gun batteries.

The entrance to the tunnels is

alongside the sound mirrors – early forms of radar carved into the chalk cliff and covered in concrete. They were designed to detect the sound of enemy aircraft and provide an early warning system.

The tunnels, built decades after the mirrors, were dug by Royal Engineers from the 172nd Tunnelling Company. It took them 100 days to carve them from the chalk.

The gun batteries were there to target any German shipping moving in the English Channel thus keeping open essential supply routes and

detering any invasion plans.

Known as the Fan Bay Deep Shelter, the once forgotten tunnels are in excellent condition and today remain the biggest and best preserved deep shelters in Dover.

Manned by four officers and up to

185 men from the 203rd Coast Battery, Royal Artillery, later becoming the 540th Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery, the tunnels provided the soldiers with the freedom to organise counter bombardments.

Deep inside there are five large

chambers providing bomb proof accommodation with space in between bunks designated for rifles, as well as a hospital and a secure store.

Both the deep shelter and gun battery were personally inspected by war-time leader Winston Churchill



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FAN BAY DEEP SHELTER: The secret tunnels were built on the orders of Winston Churchill

in June 1941. When the war ended, the tunnels continued to be used, but were finally decommissioned in the 1950s and filled in during the 1970s.

The underground tunnel system is almost all that remains of the Fan Bay battery.

The National Trust took over the site and its dilapidated tunnels two years ago, and began renovation work with a team of more than 50 of its volunteers, working alongside two archaeologists, two mine consultants, two engineers and a geologist.

Jon Barker, visitor experience manager at the White Cliffs, said: "This re-discovered piece of the country's Second World War heritage is a truly remarkable find.

"There's been no public access to the tunnels for over 40 years and so they remain much as they were when they were abandoned. We've carried out extensive conservation work to preserve both the natural decay and authentic atmosphere of the space.

"After spending 18 months working below ground to literally uncover its long-kept se-

crets, we hope visitors will be as intrigued by the tunnels as we are."

Poignant reminders of the history were discovered including graffiti, pieces of wire twisted into hooks, a Unity Pools football coupon from 1943, needle and thread tucked into the tunnel wall, and British .303 cartridges alongside American 30 calibre ammunition.

Volunteer Gordon Wise said: "Seeing the tunnels in their raw state when they were first discovered, handling artefacts and giving tours is like standing in the footsteps of history."

Chairman of the East Kent National Trust Association, Alison Mercer, said: "This is an amazing adventure. The tunnels are a thing of beauty; your eyes are drawn down long vistas into shadowy darkness, illuminated only by torch light."

The tours are in groups of 12 over the age of 12, and promise to be in a dark, dirty and wet environment with hard hats and torches.

Good health is vital – it's a 45 minute walk to the entrance then 125 steps down to 3,500 square metres of tunnels.



DEFENCES: The gun batteries protected both shipping and vital supply routes

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Can fresh festivals find the formula to keep us rocking?

After a host of high-profile casualties over the years, **Chris Murphy** speaks to the organisers of two major events and asks how they intend to hit the right notes

OVER the last 20 years, the music festival scene has gone on a rollercoaster ride that would turn the stomach even of party-loving Aerosmith.

From a summer once book-ended by Glastonbury in June and Reading at the end of August, barely a week now goes by without events taking place across the UK.

And Kent has not been immune to the explosion. But it has gained a reputation in some quarters as a 'festival graveyard' – promising much but ultimately struggling to deliver.

Certainly the line-up of events which have come and gone grows annually. The Hop Farm Festival in Paddock Wood has existed under two very different promoters and crashed and burned for both. Zoo8 staged at Port Lympne, near Hythe, seven years ago went so horrendously badly it was given the monicker 'worst festival ever' by gig goers.

Lounge of the Farm, in Canterbury, is currently vowing to return, but after losing its regular site was missing for 2015.

The 'licence to print money' of days gone by has disappeared. The concept of simply erecting a stage in a field, signing big names and expecting tens of thousands of tickets to sell out, no longer applicable.

Today's sophisticated festival-goer wants quality throughout. And preferably without a beer tent which requires a second mortgage for a round.

So in the first year for over a decade where neither mainstays Lounge on the Farm or the Hop Farm Festival have looked to woo the punters, there are a host of new kids on the block.

And all are vowing to have learned the costly lessons of those who have set up camp in Kent in recent years, and left bloodied and bruised and heading into administration.

This weekend sees the first Ramblin' Man Fair at Mote Park, Maidstone, boasting a strong line-up aimed at a very distinct audience.

Serving up a diet of classic and prog rock, with a side helping of country and blues, bands performing over the two days include the likes of the Scorpions, Saxon, Marillion, Gregg

Allman, Seasick Steve and Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson.

It is being organised by The Rock Collective, which claims it is a new venture from rock and festival experts, who have been in the industry for more than 20 years.

They were part of the team behind the High Voltage festival that ran in London's Victoria Park in 2010 and 2011.

Abbie Marshall is the director of Rock Collective. She told us: "Putting on a show like this is very complex and needed to be done right."

"At a previous festival, we gave people a 21-page survey to do so we knew exactly how they felt about their experience."

"We thought no one could be bothered to do it all, but in the end we have 4,000 replies."

"From that, we have shaped Ramblin' Man. They told us they wanted a proper experience and not just have a stage in a field, warm beer in a tent and massive prices."

"So we have brought in a creative team and are making a huge effort to make people comfortable with sofas,

day beds and seating, plus food and drink and, of course, good toilets and shuttle busses to and from local hotels, which have sold out."

"The Mote Park event is a five-year plan. We know we won't be making money in the first three years. We are in this for the long haul and don't want to make the same mistakes others in Kent have done."

"We can cater for just under 20,000 people a day, but we would be happy with 15,000. We have been told around a third of tickets sold so far are to people in Kent."

"We are giving our guests a great environment. We are being very meticulous about what is on the site. We are creating a premium product so we can tell people we respect you and want you to come every year and treat you well. We know this because we have been told this in the past."

"We hope we have got it right. It may not be 100 per cent but we hope we are on the right track and if we are, we know people will be loyal."

"If you take the mickey and give people nothing and charge extortionate prices, people will have no loyalty



to your brand. We just want to keep it a little more intimate."

It is the same at Forgotten Fields Festival, at Eridge Green, near Tunbridge Wells. Appearing on stage on the weekend of August 7-9 are Super Furry Animals, Basement Jaxx, Levellers, Razorlight and De La Soul.

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SUNSHINE: Certain events have shone on the day, but then saw the sun set when it came to counting up the cash

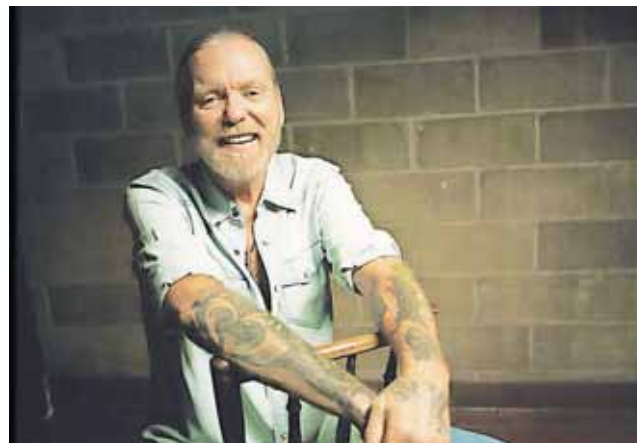
With space limited to 4,000 the surroundings promise to be slightly more intimate with five stages, a world cinema, real ale, plus boutique camping making it family friendly.

Andy Smith, the promoter for For-

gotten Fields said: "I'll be honest, when we first announced our intention of launching a new show in the Tunbridge Wells area, the decision was greeted by pessimism and warnings by some of our peers and friends

in the industry. I specifically remember the words 'festival graveyard' being muttered when I spoke to one artist's manager.

"But we've got previous experience with festivals, having started the



POPULAR: Gregg Allman, above, plays Ramblin' Man event this weekend

Lake District's Kendal Calling festival back in 2006 and shaping its growth into a four-day event which sees all 25,000 tickets sell out every year.

Forgotten Fields sees us revisiting what we love about intimate festivals.

He added: "Tickets are selling at a steady pace with some 80 per cent sold to date and, with sunshine, I'm cautiously optimistic we'll hit our capacity. Which, being our first year, would be brilliant."



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Free festival soaks up sun in the park

By Sarah Linney
sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

HITMAKERS from decades past drew a crowd of more than 20,000 people at the Dartford Festival last weekend.

The Feeling, From The Jam and The Selecter were the star turns at the free two-day festival in Central Park, which was blessed with fine weather.

Ska band The Selecter, who had several hits in 1979 and 1980, were the main act on Saturday, performing in the evening after a day of music and dance performances.

Ivor Novello-winning five-piece The Feeling, whose hits include Sewn and Fill My Little World, performed on Sunday afternoon before From The Jam – which features original The Jam member Bruce Foxton – brought the festival to a punky close.

The packed programme also included Irish dancing, street dancing, drama performances,

baby ballet and appearances from Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Calum Scott and Made in Chelsea's Andy Jordan.

Groups, charities and organisations staged talks, displays, demonstrations and activities, including cricket, football, rock climbing, rugby and cycling sessions, and there was also a funfair.

Festival organisers Dartford Borough Council said the festival had been "one of the best ever".

Council leader Jeremy Kite said: "We try to improve every year, and our commitment to live music and local bands sets it apart as one of the biggest and best free festivals around."

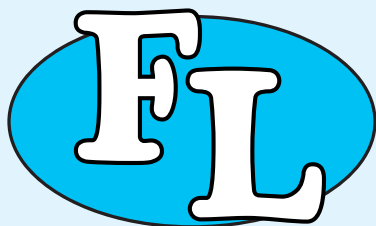
"Lots of families enjoy the festival every year, charity stalls were busy and the atmosphere was great. And we are grateful to our commercial sponsors, who help us keep the festival free."

"We are making the transition into a grown-up festival that's very chilled and is just about celebrating music and talent. I was absolutely knocked out by it," Cllr Kite added.

To give feedback about the festival email festival@dartford.gov.uk.

LIVELY: Crowds flocked to Central Park last weekend to watch acts like From the Jam, top, and The Feeling, below, in one of the county's biggest free council-run festivals





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3,000 mile ride across USA will raise vital funds for ex-soldiers

Jamie Weir reports on Ride to Recovery's east to west coast military mission and the motivation behind it...

CYCLING across America isn't for the faint of heart.

At more than 3,000 miles, it's something few would attempt. However, in September, 12 men, working as a team, will do just that, as part of what is being called the 'Ride to Recovery'.

The group are all former or current members of the military, drawn mainly from local regiment the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (PWRR), who are known as the Tigers.

Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have taken a terrible toll on soldiers across the UK for more than a decade – with loss of life and serious injury being commonplace.

PWRR – which has bases in Canterbury and Rochester – has seen more action than most as one of the British Army's senior infantry regiments. A busy unit, the regiment has seen action in every theatre of war since the Second World War.

As a result, many soldiers from the regiment have been on tours or military operations, in war zones more than once, with some sustaining serious injuries, both physical and psychological.

Just after Christmas, on January 31, 2012, Sergeant Jay Baldwin, from PWRR, became one of the casualties of Afghanistan. Out on patrol, the soldier stepped on one of the Taliban's improvised explosive devices (IED). The force of the blast left him suffering a number of injuries and requiring amputation of both legs above the knee.

The young father struggled to walk for over two years after suffering the injury, enduring chronic pain when using prosthetic limbs.

Fast forward three years, to the beginning of 2015, and Sgt Baldwin has just had life-changing surgery, which means that for the first time since the explosion, he is able to walk without pain, bringing a new lease of life to him and his family.

The pioneering surgery – called osseointegration – he had undergone transformed his life. However, at around £88,000 it wasn't a cheap fix. Despite the cost though, help was at hand from his comrades in arms.

The Friends of the PWRR is a military charity that helps soldiers from the regiment; both past, and present.

"The regiment is like a family," explains former Brigadier Matt Maer, from Bromley, who now works with the charity.

"Once people join, it stays with them for life, and they always have that support network to fall back on. When Sgt Baldwin said he needed the money, we stepped in to help because we knew how much it would mean for him."

It is for that support network that 12 soldiers will be taking to the road, travelling through 170,000 metres of climbs and 88 US counties – going from the east coast to the west – in just 14 days on their Ride to Recovery, which will raise funds to help pay for Sgt Baldwin's surgery.

To put the ride into context, the distance between John O'Groats and Land's End is 874 miles – the ride the soldiers will take on is more than 3,000.

The team going to the States is 12 strong – with one important member, Sgt Baldwin himself, who will be using a hand bicycle. He will be joined by one of the world's only living recipients of the Victoria Cross, Sergeant Johnson Beharry, for the duration of this trip.

Also making the journey will be an eight-strong support crew, complete with dieticians, a chef and drivers.

Former Colour Sergeant Brian Wood now works for the Friends of PWRR as its head of fundraising and events having spent more than 16 years with the regiment.

The softly spoken former soldier holds the distinction of taking part in the first British bayonet charge – in 2004 in Afghanistan – since the Falklands war. The 34-year-old earned himself a Military Cross for his part in the action which became known as the Battle of Danny Boy.

He said: "The biggest reason for doing this is to help Jay after his injury in Afghanistan, which is something we all feel passionately about.

"Having him along on the trip is brilliant. I grew up with Jay in the reg-



GRUELLING: Bike ride will take the 12-strong Ride to Recovery team across the Rocky Mountains en route to their ambitious goal. Many of those will be from the county.

iment, and I remember he was always such a great sportsman; a brilliant cricketer and footballer.

"I've been out with him on the road, and he handles himself amazingly. He finds it tricky going up hills, which, clearly is to be expected as obviously being on a handbike it's tough. There's a lot of lactic acid build up, but we can manage that, and we'll make sure we conquer it as a team.

"Having him onboard is absolutely perfect, and it's going to be great having him. He seems to want to give something back to the charity and the regiment as well, for helping to change his life."

Although the former Colour Sergeant knew Jay well during his time in the army, not all of the participants did. Despite that, all of them felt the Friends of PWRR was key to the Regiment's ethos.

Lieutenant Dan Lauder, told KoS that he felt the charity was crucial, and he'd jumped at the chance when he learned of the fundraising trip.

He said: "As a serving soldier, I have a particular interest in the charity, as one day, you never know, through injury or something else I may need it. It gives guys help getting into employment, helps with physical injuries, and also helps guys who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder."

The 25-year-old from Orpington has a fair bit of experience on a bike, even proposing to his wife on a cycling holiday.

"I always wanted to be in the Army," he explains. "When I left school, I chose not to go to university, instead ending up working in a leisure centre in Bromley which is where I got into cycling, teaching spin classes.

"Ever since then, I've loved touring and have gone on a few trips throughout Europe, spending time in Scot-

land. I've always been involved in cycling, but I've never done this kind of event before, so it'll be exciting for me."

Despite it being a charitable ride for the PWRR, other regiments are also taking part.

Ryan Taylor was in the Household Cavalry regiment, The Blues and Royals. He hails from Tunbridge Wells, and now, having left the Army, wanted to help out when he heard Sgt Baldwin's story.

He said: "It's so important to give these guys support. It's really important that there is someone there to help pick up the pieces when it's their time of need.

"One thing which we're seeing more of is guys who are suffering from post traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. That's something which is particularly likely with a regiment like PWRR, which has been so active in a number of areas.

"I'm a pretty avid cyclist, so I'm really looking forward to the ride. I think it'll be a great test of endurance, and a pretty incredible experience. We'll be covering interesting terrain.

"We hit the Rockies, in Colorado about three quarters of the way through, so that's going to be pretty tough for us."

Another keen cyclist adding his skills to the mix is Warrant Officer Class 2 Colin Lewis who lives in Canterbury with his family. He told KoS the team were excited about the challenge – particularly after riding together for the first time recently.

WO2 Lewis said: "It has been really, really beneficial riding together, as we've got riders who are based all over the place. That means for many of us, it has been the first time we've ridden together, and obviously everyone has their own little nuances and there are



PRACTICE: Team are preparing now for September's big ride

different experience levels.

"There's quite a mix within the group, with one rider who's a very accomplished mountain bike rider, but others who haven't done a great amount of cycling.

"It means a lot to help support the Tigers, and an honour to do this to assist present, former and future soldiers from the regiment."

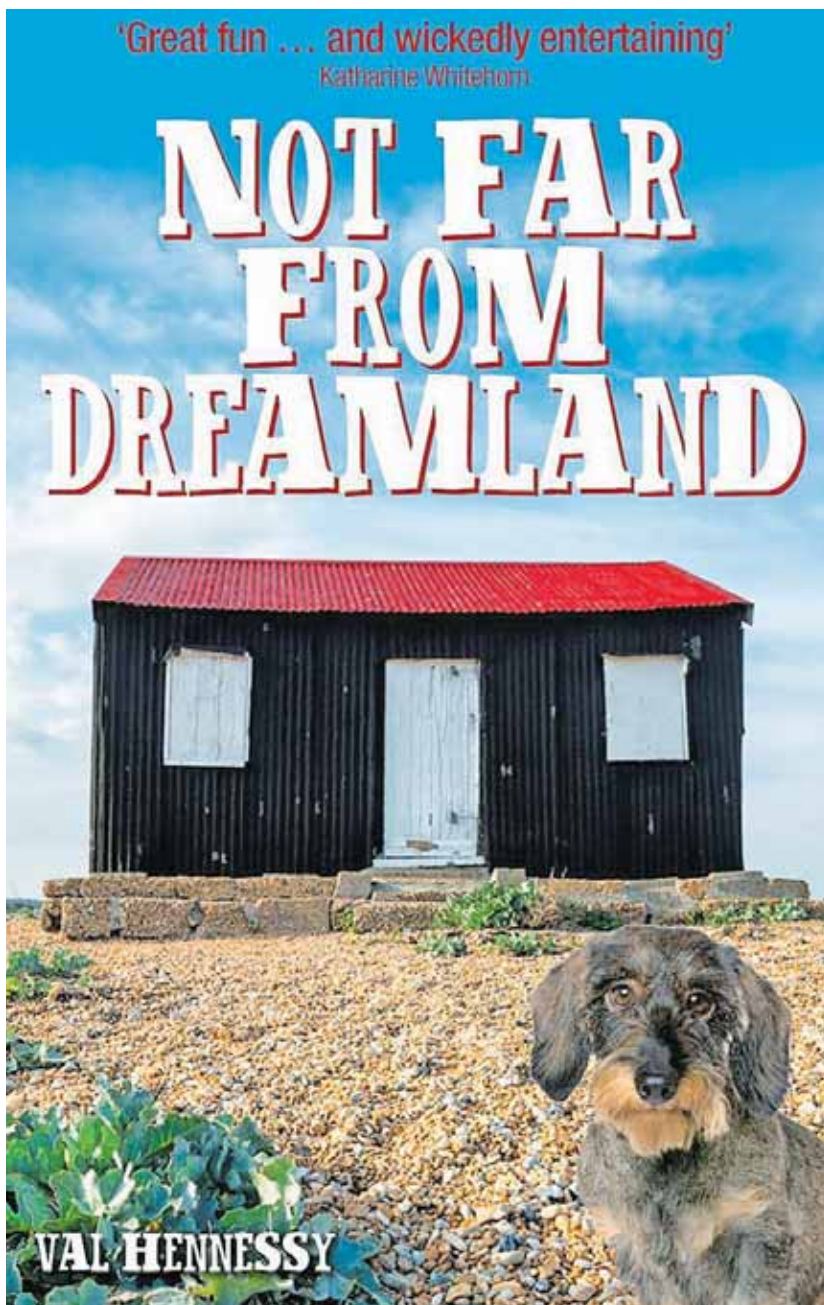
It'll be a particularly valuable experience for WO2 Lewis, who harbours a desire to one day study sports psychology at university.

He told KoS: "I love to help people achieve better, and do more, so this will be a once in a lifetime experience. When we finish, we'll be one of just a handful of team's which has done this, and we're doing it for an amazing cause, so that will be truly special."

■ Visit: www.justgiving.com/teams/ridetorecovery to sponsor



READY: Team get ready to take part in a 3,000 mile bike ride from the east to west coast of America in September to raise money for injured soldiers



PUBLISHED: Author Val Hennessy, below, and the cover of her new book all about the trials and tribulations of OAP Ronald Tonks, who lives in the county.



A little rebellion goes a long way when you're 70!

Molly Kersey speaks to the former Daily Mail literary critic about her new Kent-based book...

THERE are a lot of aspects of modern day life that writer Val Hennessy has become fed up of.

The need for everyone to be online, an obsession with knowing how old people are – something she refuses to divulge, simply telling KoS ‘I’m over 21 and I have four grandchildren’ – and forms.

In fact, asked to fill in a medical form, Mrs Hennessy found that she had something of a mini rebellion. And it was this rebellion that sparked the idea for her new book – *Not Far From Dreamland*.

“I went to see a podiatrist, because I had this very painful corn on the sole of my foot, because I do a lot of walking,” said the writer, who grew up in Gravesend.

“I went in and was handed a form to fill in and one question said ‘what is your sexual orientation? Tick one of the following boxes’. And I thought – what the hell has my sexual orientation got to do with getting a corn removed from the sole of my foot?”

“And I suddenly decided, I am not going to fill in this form. Suddenly life is full of forms and that got me thinking about all the other things we have to get used to, like you have to be online and you’re really discriminated against if you’re not. I suddenly thought to myself, I am going to write a book about all the things we have to put up with all of a sudden.”

The work of fiction tells the story of feisty old-timer Ronald Tonks, who lives in a wind-battered bungalow on the north Kent coast and tries to get to grips with life’s little challenges – which include dodgy teeth and modern youth.

“He tries online dating, which is a disaster, and he joins a ukulele group, which he loves, and forms a band called the Old Boys,” she said. “He has his very first spliff at the age of 70, he rolls it up and it’s too flimsy so it ends up burning his throat.”

“My character is a huge reader, and this is the best of all times to be a reader because every charity shop is packed full of excellent books. Nobody is reading books anymore. My character is a huge book fan and he mentions the books he is reading over the course of the book so that is an important aspect of it too.”

And Mrs Hennessy says that the small rebellions which play an important part in the process of getting older will be included.

“As you see 70 approaching I think it’s a time for little numerous rebellions such as not filling in your form when they want to know your sexual orientation,” she said.

“If you find yourself stuck with someone who is dead boring, when you are younger you stick it out and nod politely. When you’re older you think no, life is too short.”

And the county has a part to play too. In

fact, the dedication reads: “To the memory of the woods and the hop-fields of Cobham, Kent, now buried beneath tarmac and the high speed rail track.”

“My main character is a huge Leonard Cohen fan, and so am I because he is still going strong at 80, so that is an element of the book, as is his passion and love for Kent,” she explained.

“I share that because I was born and bred in Kent. I spent my youth in and around Gravesend and I used to go hop-picking at Cobham. My book is a love song to Kent as it once was. Mind you, it is still very beautiful in places. I love the marshes, they are absolutely wonderful.”

Mrs Hennessy attended Gravesend Grammar School for Girls, but did not have a particularly enjoyable experience.

“I was miserable for the whole time I was there. You had to conform,” she said.

“I only enjoyed English lessons. I read every book I could get my hands on and was always a compulsive writer.”

But she has many happy memories of her childhood spent in the county.

“When I was eight I got my first bike and I don’t think people realise how wonderful it was to have a bike in those days. We kids went for miles and miles because there were hardly any cars on the roads in the 1950s. There was a Gravesend swimming pool and we could go down there on our bikes and the marshes that Dickens loved out in Higham. It was just magical.”

In fact, the book sees Ronald campaigning

against the airport being proposed for development on the marsh land around the Thames Estuary, because he is a huge fan of Charles Dickens, who was inspired by that landscape.

Mrs Hennessy is no stranger to writing. A journalist and columnist for more than 40 years, she interviewed a number of prominent figures in her role as the Daily Mail’s chief literary critic, and contributed to a number of major newspapers and magazines, continuing to write the Daily Mail’s Retro Reads column.

So how has the transition from journalism been? “When you are writing fiction you are making stuff up, you don’t have to check everything like you do when you are doing journalism. You can go off on these little sprees in your head and these characters take on a life of their own, and when you’re writing it they are springing into life. I almost feel as though I know Ronald Tonks, I half expect to bump into him on the beach near where I live.”

Mrs Hennessy has two children, four grandchildren and lives in north Kent with her two dachshunds.

■ **Not Far From Dreamland (£15) is available from www.quartetbooks.co.uk.**

“My main character is a huge Leonard Cohen fan, who is still going strong at 80, so that is an element of the book, as is his passion and love for Kent...”

Val Hennessy,
Author of *Not Far From Dreamland*



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24 October, 7, 14, November, 16, 23, 30 January, 6, 13, 20, 27 February, 5, 12, 19, 26 March (usually £5,810.00)

Additional day guests charged at £66pp, additional evening guests charged at £17.50pp

Sundays - £3,112.50 - available on: 9, 23, August, 13, 27, September, (usually £4,150.00)

4, October, 1, 8, 15, 22, November, 10, 17, 24, 31 January, 7, 14, 21, 28 February, 6, 13, 27 March (usually £3,600.00)

Additional day guests charged at £58pp, additional evening guests charged at £17.50pp.

All dates subject to availability at time of enquiry



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2nd October

MC - James Redmond - As seen on Emmerdale, Coronation Street, Hollyoaks, Holby City, **Opener - Phil Reid** - 2014 Jokers joker of the year, **Middle - Keith Platt**, **Headliner 1 - Adam Kay** - Known for the London Underground Song & Creator of BBC3 show Crims, **Headliner 2 - Andrew Lawrence** - As seen on Stand up of the Week, Live at the Apollo, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, Dave's One night stand

6th November

MC - Paul Ricketts **Opener - Bobby Murdock**, **Middle - Robert White** - Musical comedy star **Headliner 1 - Nina Benjamin** - As seen on Big Brother's Big Mouth (Ch4), Edinburgh and Beyond (Comedy Central), **Headliner 2 - Mike Gunn** - As seen on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow

Doors open 7pm & Comedy 8pm

Tickets £10 - can be bought over the phone on 01622 620720, via main reception at Oakwood House or via www.thelaughingpod.com

Calendar of Events 2015

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MAGIC: Dr Longitude's Marvellous Imaginary Menagerie will be performed.

Outlands Festival brings its cultural fusion to Folkestone

Molly Kersey looks at new showcase for outdoor art and what it has to offer...

A NEW festival aiming to showcase outdoor art and celebrate community, culture and public space will be coming to Folkestone next month.

Outlands Festival, which has been co-curated by the Folkestone Quarterhouse, Folkestone Fringe and Music For Change, will be taking place at Payers Park on August 2, 9 and 16.

Work began on the site, which had previously been dilapidated and unused for many decades, last year, in time for the Folkestone Triennial – which sees artists use the town as their canvas and create unique pieces.

Outlands Festival is presenting a programme of family theatre, world dance and live music workshops.

Some of the workshops will be free, and a 'pay what you can'

scheme is also being introduced for others, so that people are able to pay as little, or as much, as they like in order to enjoy certain activities.

On August 2, Second Hand Dance will be presenting Grass – a quirky dance show featuring worms, slugs and snails and aiming to get the audience to think about the world beneath their feet.

On the same afternoon, Music For Change, which aims to bring world music into both the classroom and the community by running educational music and dance workshops, will be presenting Global Sounds.

They will be running a number of workshops and performances, including a West African circus skills workshop and a performance from Emmanuel Okine.

There will also be a South African acapella vocals and gumboot

workshop from U'Zambezi and Roma music from Téa Hodžic.

On August 9, family show Dr Longitude's Marvellous Imaginary Menagerie will be visiting the festival, telling the story of the world's weirdest wonder emporium.

The show features music, magic and puppets and answers questions such as are Bumblewasps poisonous, what do Whistling Pank's eat, and what happens when you lick a Tresillian Toad?

The show is suitable for people of all ages and performances will be running at both 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Tickets for the show are £6 for adults and £5 for children.

Family tickets are also available and they cost £20.

An interactive parkour workshop and West African drumming workshop from George Fiawoo will also be taking place on the same day.

The final day of the festival, August 16, will be dedicated to showcasing emerging singers and songwriters and bands from Folkestone and across the east Kent area.

Acts include Nina Clark, Tasha McCoy, Emily Watts, Thomas Ashby and Avi Simmons.

The festival will be exposed to the elements, but in the case of bad weather events will be moved indoors and will take place in the Folkestone Quarterhouse instead.

While most of the workshops at Outlands Festival are free, signing up is recommended for some of them in order to ensure a place.

For more information about the elements that will be taking place, or to book tickets for one of the shows at the festival, you can visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

Alternatively you can call the box office on 01303 760750.

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Plays from Shakespeare and Coward set for outdoor shows

by Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

TWO open air theatre productions will be taking place in Meopham this summer.

Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona* and comedy *Hay Fever* are both due to be performed at Nurstead Court.

Both of the shows are presented by the Changeling Theatre.

Members of the audience will be exposed to the elements as they enjoy the productions - and anyone hoping to attend is advised to bring suitable clothing, footwear and seating along with them.

The *Two Gentlemen of Verona* is considered to be the first play of literary legend William Shakespeare, delving into the behaviour of people in love.

It tells of the story and adventures of two best friends - Valentine and Proteus.

When Proteus falls in love with his best friend's girlfriend, the two of them find themselves torn between the bonds of male friendship and romance.

The play features girls who dress up as boys and the journey from the more controlled worlds of Milan

and Verona into the more unrestricted wilds of the forest - themes which reoccur in some of Shakespeare's other popular plays including *Twelfth Night* and *As You Like It*.

Comedy *Hay Fever* is a play by Noel Coward.

It is set in the hall of the Bliss family home.

The eccentric family - which includes recently retired stage actress Judith, self-absorbed novelist David and their two unconventional children - exist in a world where the truth can very easily slip into fiction.

A group of unfortunate guests - including an athletic boxer, a flapper and a diplomat - enter this chaotic world, and find themselves repeatedly thrown into melodramatic scenes, consisting of their hosts responding to situations that do not actually exist, with the chaos only ending when the guests decide to make an exit.

The *Two Gentlemen of Verona* will be performed on Thursday (July 30) and *Hay Fever* will be taking to the stage on August 12.

For more information about the two performances, or to book tickets for the shows, you can visit www.woodville.co.uk.



SHAKESPEARE: The words of the famous bard will be performed in Meopham this summer.

Journeying through Spain

SHOW The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha will be performed at the Margate Winter Gardens on November 4 at 7.30pm.

Call the box office on 01843 292795 to book.



Puppetry festival emerges

TUNBRIDGE Wells is set to become the first location in the county to host a unique puppetry festival later this year.

The Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival will be held on October 10 from 10am to 9pm.

For more details, you can visit www.twpuppetryfestival.org.

Fifties hits on the stage

THE Sherry Babys will perform at Margate Winter Gardens on September 3 at 7.30pm.

They will be performing classic fifties songs.

Tickets are £20. Call 01843 292795 to book.



Paddy McGuinness tours

POPULAR comedian Paddy McGuinness will be bringing his new show to the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, as part of its tour of the UK.

Mr McGuinness, who is well-known as the presenter of ITV show *Take Me Out*, will take to the stage on October 15 at 7.30pm.

To book, visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone.



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Youths perform in Oliver

THE Orchard Theatre's summer youth project will take to the stage to perform musical Oliver from August 13 to 15.

Nathan Wills will play the role of Bill Sykes.
To book, call 01322 220000.



Bromley does Full Monty

HIT show The Full Monty, telling the story of six out of work steel workers who decide to make some money by stripping, will be performed at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, from October 19 to 24.

To book, call the box office on 08448717620 or visit www.atgtickets.com/bromley.

Hauntfest is going live

BROADWITCH Hauntfest is going live this Halloween for the 13th year.

The attraction is at Broad-ditch Farm, near Gravesend.

For details visit www.broadwitchhauntfest.co.uk.



Twelfth Night is outdoors

SHAKESPEARE'S much-loved romantic comedy Twelfth Night will be performed at an outdoor theatre event at Emmetts Garden, Sevenoaks, on August 20.

The performance will take place from 7.30pm until 10pm and booking is essential.

To book, call 0844 249 1895.

Adam Ant will be topping the bill at the 20th Create Festival

by Molly Kersey
molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

EXCITEMENT is building ahead of the 20th Create music festival – which promises to be the biggest and best yet.

This year's celebration, which will be taking place in Victoria Park, Ashford, will see legendary performer Adam Ant headlining.

Joining him in the line-up will be The Bluetones front man Mark Morriss, who will be performing a number of indie melodies for the crowds.

The free festival will have four live music stages and a variety of food and drink on offer.

Create Festival organiser Chris Dixon said: "It is such a good feeling to be organising the festival's 20th anniversary year."

"Over the years the event has grown significantly and now with all the spin off events, Create is beginning to be recognised regionally and nationally."

The main stage, which is sponsored by Ashford College, will showcase bands including Vans Susans and Risky & The Ridicule.

The Right Track Music stage will



LEGEND: Adam Ant will be headlining.

be featuring Ashford punk band The Rash and headlined by blues band Salvation Jayne.

The revelation stage will feature local and national singers and songwriters and the Canterbury College DJ stage will provide a mixture of different music.

Chris and Su Bailey, directors of Right Track Music, said: "In booking Salvation Jayne we have landed ourselves a top quality Kent

band with a large following and serious integrity."

"Amongst such an amazing line up across the site, we are proud to be introducing our audiences to such passionate local performers."

The festival has also been providing good opportunities for people in the area, including local students.

Rob Forsyth, learner manager of creative arts at Ashford College,

said: "Not only are we sponsoring the main stage, but we are using the festival as an opportunity for our students to do work experience behind the scenes."

"Create really is giving our students an unbeatable start to their careers in music technology."

The Create Festival will be running until Sunday (July 26), from 11.30am to 9pm. Visit www.createfestival.co.uk for details.

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How to make perfect pasta for summer season

Italian cook Gennaro Contaldo explains how to make the perfect pasta dishes in the sizzling weather

THE sizzling weather might signal the start of holiday season for many of us, but while we slow down into relax mode, Italian cook Gennaro Contaldo is gearing up for another busy summer.

A great friend and mentor to Jamie Oliver, he is heavily involved in Oliver's Italian restaurant chain and has just released *The Pasta Book* – his second cookery title this year – which is tied in with the younger chef's online Food Tube channel. It's hard work, but work he clearly loves.

"A chef will always be a chef, it doesn't matter what kind of weather it is," reasons the 66-year-old, who splits his time between London and Norfolk, with his wife Liz and their

11-year-old twin daughters.

"It's nice to have a rest in the summer, but summer is also a nice time in the restaurant. The market stalls are full of incredible fresh vegetables, fish, herbs. People walk around with a big smile on their faces. It makes you happy."

Mr Contaldo, who tries to bat away being called a chef, preferring to refer to himself as a cook, was born on the Amalfi Coast and has been whipping up meals since he was nine-years-old, having been bitten by the foodie bug when he started helping out in his father's friend Alfonso's restaurant.

Frequently swapping recipes and tips with Oliver and his other great pal Antonio Carluccio, who he travelled around Italy with to film 2011



PASTA: Ingredients are 'fresh and in season', says Mr Contaldo.

series *Two Greedy Italians*, Mr Contaldo's daughters also felt the benefit of his wisdom, and learned to cook at a "very, very, very young age".

"At the age of seven, they could make their own risotto," he reveals proudly. "They can go into a restaurant and choose whatever they like."

Even though their father will be within arm's reach of the kitchen this summer, the family will make plenty of trips to Norfolk, to relax in their 200-year-old cottage and enjoy the nearby seaside.

"I was born near the sea," he says. "The first thing I heard was the sea. The sea was my swimming pool and the beach was my playground. I do miss the sea. When I first came to England, the nearest place to see the

sea was Brighton, and I couldn't wait to go and run my fingers through it.

"It would transport me to my home town, because the sea goes to every corner, every channel, everywhere. If I touch the sea, it is a touch to my home town. The sea is peace to me."

Although the sea is no longer in touching distance, Mr Contaldo seeks solace in his plate, loading up on pasta dishes with plenty of fresh fish.

"Summer pasta is good, everything is fresh and in season," he says.

"Use your imagination and think, 'I've got this nice ingredient, it will go well with the pasta and make a lovely marriage'. Just don't experiment too much. You can give it a go and say, 'You know what? Gennaro said it was good and he was right!'"

Free concerts on lawn

A SERIES of free summer concerts will be taking place on the Bailey Lawn at Tonbridge Castle in August.

The concerts have been arranged by Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and will take place every Sunday afternoon between 3pm and 5pm.

Music will be performed by amateurs and professionals including the John Hamilton Big Band and the Invicta Jazz Orchestra.

Calamity Jane returns

THE Watermill Theatre will be bringing classic musical *Calamity Jane* to the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, from July 31 to August 1.

It tells the story of *Calamity Jane*, who can outrun and outshoot any man in Deadwood. She recruits Adelaide Adams for the Deadwood stage, and tries to keep her pride in check when everyone favours the new girl. To book, call 01892 530613.

The heroic Robin Hood

THE Adventures of Robin Hood will be performed at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on August 2 at 2pm.

In Sherwood Forest, Robin teams up with Little John, Friar Tuck and Will Scarlett to defeat the Sheriff of Nottingham and take from the rich and give to the poor.

Tickets to the family-friendly show are £8 for adults and £6 for children. To book, visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.

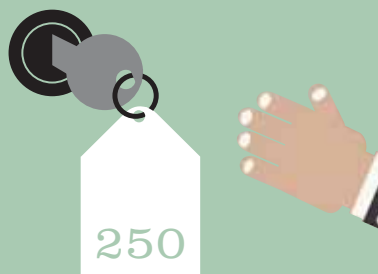
The spirit of the dance

HIT dance show *Spirit of the Dance* will be performed at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from August 17 to 22.

The show has been seen around the globe and is now celebrating its 15th anniversary. It delivers dances including Irish dance, tango, flamenco and salsa.

Performances take place at 5pm, 7.30pm and 8pm. For details, or to book, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

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Book now... for Christmas

Party with your family and friends at Thorley Taverns this festive season

CHRISTMAS is a great excuse for a party with your friends and family and Thorley Taverns are the best place to celebrate. They have the perfect venue for your festive feast at their great inns and hotels in Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

In Broadstairs, the Captain Digby family pub and restaurant overlooks romantic Kingsgate Bay. It dates back to the 1760s and is named after a nephew of Lord Holland.

The Pavillion in Harbour Street has an enviable situation on picturesque Viking Bay.

Just round the corner is the Tartar Frigate, renowned for its seafood, with a roaring fire in the bar to welcome you in from the winter's blast. A few minutes away in Victoria Parade is The Charles Dickens, named after Broadstairs' most famous resident. Its Copperfields restaurant upstairs has a command-

ing view of the bay.

In Ramsgate you are also spoilt for choice, between the Pegwell Bay Hotel and the Oak Hotel & Restaurant 66. The Pegwell Hotel, overlooking the Pegwell Bay, won the Pride of Thanet award in 2011 and has everything you need - including dancing and the option of an overnight stay. The Oak & Hotel Restaurant 66 overlooks the Roy Harbour and you can stay overnight.



Have a night to remember at a fully-themed venue

COME and enjoy a traditional Christmas extravaganza with your friends and colleagues.

Party the night away in a fully themed, purpose-built venue at a convenient location just off the A2 near Canterbury at The Faversham Showground.

There will be welcome drinks and canapes for your party on arrival, followed by a delicious four course traditional Christmas dinner.

Entertainment includes the Mon-

ster Christmas Ball Nightclub - brought to you by UKMB Limited - one of the leading event production and event bar providers in the South East.

A cabaret and casino will also be on offer. So for something new for Christmas, come and celebrate and have a night to remember.

Tickets are available for parties of any size.

This year, events will be taking place on December 11, 12, 18 and 19.

Get a round of applause with a party at the Stag

LOOKING for a unique venue for your staff Christmas party this year? Why not book your event at the Stag Theatre?

For just £250, you will have exclusive use of the Stag Plaza, situated at the rear of the theatre, which can accommodate up to 150 guests seated or 300 standing. Your booking will include a private entrance, bar, toilets and cloakroom.

The theatre is ideally located just

10 minutes walk away from Sevenoaks station, with plenty of car parks nearby.

The spacious room can accommodate any event from a sit-down meal to a buffet and dance floor. Why not book a magician for the night, or a band or a DJ? Make sure you get a round of applause for you Christmas party and book a night at The Stag.

To find out more, call Danielle Chapman on 01732 450175.



All the magic of Christmas at Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel this year

IT'S the most magical time of the year.

Look forward to a seasonal short break, traditional festive fare with all the trimmings, or stylish celebrations with your friends and family in a perfectly unique setting.

Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel offers the perfect setting for a memorable Christmas and New Year.

Built around a Georgian manor house and set in 26 acres of private gardens, the hotel was originally part

of the Leeds Castle estate.

Today, guests can enjoy the hotel's extensive facilities including a Brasserie restaurant, bar and Feel Good Health Club, with an indoor pool and fitness centre.

Whether you are joining them to celebrate in style or to relax and unwind, let them look after every detail during this festive period.

Hollywood Nights will also be on offer this year.

These Hollywood-themed parties

will let you feel like a star for the night, from the paparazzi on the red carpet to the walk of fame.

Whether with friends, family or colleagues, you will enjoy a premier evening full of delicious food and music from the resident DJ.

The hotel is located just minutes away from junction 8 of the M20.

For more information about the hotel and all the events that it has to offer, you can visit www.mercure.com.

Book now... for Christmas

Award-winning head chef cooks up a storm at Tudor Park this Christmas

THE Christmas party season begins at Tudor Park Marriott Hotel and Country Club from November 20 onwards.

The evenings include a three-course, traditional Christmas meal, prepared by their award-winning head chef Tom Biddle and his team.

Crackers and novelties will be adding some extra sparkle, and guests can also dance to the resident DJ until 1am.

The price of the event is just £34

per person.

Special offers include booking Join In Party nights for a table of 10 or more and the organiser goes free.

You can also book the Ultimate Park Night package and get casino tables and a photobooth free.

Alternatively for a more relaxed and intimate celebration you can enjoy a traditional lunch, or Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, in their Conical Grill Restaurant.

Just a minute's drive from junction

8 of the M20, Tudor Park offers hassle-free parking with 250 spaces.

Make a night of it by staying in one of the 120 luxury rooms at a special party rate and, the following day, soothe aching party feet and heads in Tudor Park's spa with its pool, sauna, and treatment rooms.

For more information about the events on offer you can call Tudor Park's events team on 01622 632006.

Terms and conditions apply.



Picturesque Victorian venue offers festive fun

SET in tree-lined gardens, this traditional Victorian venue with a modern twist offers the perfect backdrop for your festive event.

From locally-sourced seasonal lunches and sumptuous Christmas Day carvery, to adult and children's parties that pull out all the stops.

There is something for everyone at Oakwood House in Maidstone this festive season. Why not gather family and friends and book one of their more intimate rooms for a

relaxing lunch, buffet or dinner?

If you are looking for something a little different, why not try one of their Christmas Comedy nights? They have two first class acts straight from the London comedy circuit while you enjoy a fantastic two course meal followed by a DJ playing all your favourite party tunes.

Shared party nights are available throughout December - bring your friends, colleagues or family.

Call 01622 620720 for details.

Enjoy the magic of the Secret Garden with ski-themed festive holiday parties

COME and enjoy the magic of Secret Garden at Ashford with friends, family and colleagues at one of their party nights.

For 2015 they have put together a fun Apri Ski party theme.

These are exclusive nights and they are limited to 50 guests.

Tables sit five to 10 guests and pre-orders will be required.

The night features a three course A La Carte meal, games for each table, a

vodka ski bar, decorations and crackers, a hot chocolate bar, a photo booth and some melted snow for you to take home.

The price is £32 with their early bird special offer with bookings for November, or £38 for December bookings.

The event takes place on November 17 and 26 and December 3, 5, 9, 12 and 17. It takes place from 6.30pm to 11.30pm.

Secret Garden is also the perfect place for private events and can take from 40 to 70 in their Main Coach House, and 26 in the Victorian Glass House. Their team of chefs are delighted to offer two menus, or can tailor a menu to suit your family, friends, colleagues or clients.

November menu one is £32 and menu two is £38.

December menu one is £38 and menu two is £44.



Great team at the Anchor & Hope will ensure you have a good time on visit

THE Anchor & Hope is located in the village of Ash, Kent, about two miles from Brands Hatch racing circuit and four miles from Bluewater.

The Anchor & Hope is an independent country run pub owned by Emma Pearson and Benjamin Eldridge. Along with a great team of people their aim is to ensure that you have a good time, whatever your reason for visiting.

Recently refurbished, their pub

and restaurant combines a modern contemporary feel with the beauty of a 16th century coaching inn.

They have an extensive range of beer, wine and spirits and three well kept real ales. If you are looking to dine with them they have both a bar menu and a restaurant menu.

They have a large patio area to the front and side of the pub and a very large garden. There is also plenty of parking so whatever your reason - a

holiday or day out in Kent, a shopping trip to Bluewater or a trip to Brands Hatch, why not pop in and see them? You can even stay the night in one of their en-suite bedrooms.

Their pre-Christmas menu is available for bookings between November 26 and December 23. A three course meal with coffee and mints is £22.95 per person. A £10 deposit per person is required.

Take in vast metropolis of Shanghai

TRAVEL REVIEW: Shanghai

by Katie Wright

It's 8am on a Friday in Jing'An – the central district of Shanghai, packed with gleaming hotels and shopping malls – and already the pace on the streets is frenetic.

I'm trying to cross a busy main road but even super-sized traffic lights, a green man and a zebra crossing hold no sway against drivers who seem to see pedestrians as an annoyance best ignored. I make it across unscathed and head for Jing'An Park, a leafy haven where pensioners are huddled around Mahjong boards and a bunch of teens are attempting to get a drone camera into the air.

It's 20 years since I've been to China – I lived in the southern city of Guangzhou for a year when I was 10 years old – and boy is it clear things have changed. In those days, my blond siblings and I were gawped at like we were aliens wherever we went, but in modern day Shanghai, westerners – or “guilos” in Mandarin – are 10 a penny and not an eyelid is batted as I walk around.

The number of foreigners visiting the world's largest city has grown significantly since short-term visa restrictions were relaxed in 2013.

You can now stay in China for up to 72 hours without a visa, making it more attractive to travellers in South East Asia or on route to Australia. So how do you maximise a three-day stay in this vast metropolis?

While I could happily gawp at the stunning view from my 17th floor room at the Puli Hotel all day, I'm keen to explore old-school Shanghai.

So after my stroll I make a beeline for Tian Zi Fang, where the narrow criss-crossing streets are lined with low rise ‘Lane’ houses, built in the 1930s.



FRENETIC: You can now stay in China for up to 72 hours without a visa.

The area now has a market feel, with former residential homes mostly transformed into shops selling silk clothing, loose leaf tea, cartoonish trinkets and other tourist-friendly goods. I haven't retained much Mandarin in two decades – and bartering is made all the more difficult because the Chinese have a system of hand symbols for numbers that's more complicated than our one to 10 fingers – but with the help of my iPhone

calculator, I manage to haggle down the price of some silver jewellery and a traditional silk Cheongsam dress.

I make my way over to the picturesque Yu Garden to watch koi carp and turtles paddling in jade green ponds, as I walk across the Zigzag Bridge to reach Huxinting Teahouse and a refreshing jasmine brew.

Later that night, I head out in search of the one sight I'm most excited about. Ever since I learned that

Shanghai's space-age skyscrapers were used to represent futuristic Los Angeles in the Spike Jonze film *Her*, I've been dying to experience the vertiginous views myself.

The best place to do so? It's got to be the Bund, the wide riverside boulevard opposite the iconic Pudong skyline that is to Shanghai what the Southbank is to London.

I stroll happily along the riverfront as the sun is setting, and by the time

TRAVEL FACTS

Katie Wright was a guest of the Puli Hotel & Spa (www.thepuli.com). Rooms from £478 per night, including complimentary stocked mini bar, Wifi and unlimited use of Health Club, sauna, steam room and indoor infinity pool.

Air France (www.airfrance.co.uk) offers 14 flights a week to Shanghai in China via Paris. Return fares start from £446, including all taxes and fees.

I've finished my first mojito at the seventh floor POP terrace bar at the top of Three On The Bund, Pudong is lit up in all its neon glory.

After dinner downstairs at Mercato – home to the best Italian food I've found east of Italy – I take a taxi (they're cheap as long as you make sure the driver puts the meter on) to glitzy club Myst for more cocktails. And dancing. And more cocktails.

Head pounding, I drag myself out of bed the next morning and remember I'm booked on a street food tour. Described accurately by American guide Jamie as “four hours of eating”, it's just what the doctor ordered.

We wander through the avenues of the historic French Concession, stopping to sample all kinds of delicious hangover-busting dumplings, my favourite being the soft white steamed buns filled with sweet, sticky black sesame paste. I spend the afternoon walking off lunch and perusing the works of artists in the cool M50 district, before heading to the Bund for dinner.

Not long before midnight, I watch the lights of Pudong go out one by one, but that doesn't mean this city is going to sleep. Far from it. I've got 12 hours until my plane departs, and I intend to make the most of them...

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



THE WONDERS (15, 111 mins) Drama

GELSOMINA is the eldest of four daughters, who help their father harvest honey from nearby hives and sell it in jars to the local community. As summer beckons, life on the farm is thrown into disarray by the arrival of a

14-year-old German boy called Martin, who will work alongside the family as part of a youth rehabilitation program. Meanwhile, a TV game show called Village Wonders, hosted by the ethereal Milly Catena, arrives in the forest, offering a prize to the best farmers in the region. Gelsomina proudly enters her dysfunctional clan, unaware of the dire consequences of her proud actions.

SELF/LESS (12A, 117 mins) Sci-Fi/Action/ Thriller/Romance

DIRECTOR Tarsem Singh and screenwriters Alex and David Pastor consider a radical solution to mortality in the sci-fi thriller *Self/less*: a medical procedure known as “shedding”, which transplants a human consciousness into a healthy new body. It's a neat central conceit, but the Pastor brothers'

execution is occasionally sloppy.

New York industrialist Damian Hale is a force of nature in the boardroom, but his billions and business acumen are no match for cancer. With less than six months to live, he contacts Phoenix Biogenic run by the enigmatic Professor Albright, who claims to have pioneered a procedure that transplants the consciousness of wealthy patrons into a healthy body that has been grown in the laboratory.

Damian stages his death and reawakens as a thirty-something hunk. He studies a prepared identity, entrepreneur Edward Kittner, and starts afresh with stashed millions in New Orleans, befriending a local man called Anton, who is a passport to the city's hedonistic nightlife.

Every day, Damian must take a red pill to stave off hallucinations.

When he misses one dose, vivid



images of a single mother and her daughter flood Damian's brain, suggesting that Albright fibbed about the provenance of the genetically engineered host body.

THOMAS & FRIENDS: SODOR'S LEGEND OF THE LOST TREASURE (U, 63 mins) Animated/Adventure

THOMAS and his engine pals Ryan, Gordon, Toby and the Scottish twins Douglas and Donald discover an old pirate ship. This leads to the realisation that there is lost treasure on the magical island of Sodor. Thomas and co find themselves in a race against time to track down the treasure before Sailor John spirits it away in his trusted sail boat Skiff.

WE may have had the hottest July day on record and relatively little rain this month, but water companies are indicating they're not going to introduce hosepipe bans this year, according to a report in trade publication Horticulture Week.

However, gardeners are being advised to take a common-sense approach to watering and not to reach for the sprinkler at the first sign of a sunny spell. After all, a sprinkler can use up to 1,000 litres of drinking water, or 220 gallons, in an hour, which is more than a family of four would normally use in a day.

There are so many products on the market now to help us save water that there's really no excuse not to, from controlled irrigation systems where sensors monitor the moisture in the soil and only water your plants when the soil really needs it, to bath water diverters which send all your 'grey' water to your water butt.

Add to this an increasing choice of drought-tolerant plants and hopefully the sprinkler will become a thing of the past. If you must use annuals, which are notoriously thirsty, keep them in pots rather than borders and go for ones which can withstand drier situations, like pelargoniums, gazania and osteospermum.

If you are creating new beds and borders, consider drought-resistant plants such as lavender, Sedum spectabile, lamb's ears and ornamental grass such as Stipa tenuissima, while



ADVICE: Gardeners are asked to take a 'common sense' approach to watering their plants in the hot weather.

Tips on watering this summer

middle-sized drought-resistant plants include Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus', Erysimum 'Bowles's Mauve', Russian sage and Nepeta 'Six Hills Giant'.

At the back of the border you could use species more than 1.8m tall, including Cotinus coggygria 'Royal Purple', Choisya ternata and Trachelospermum jasminoides.

Most drought-tolerant plants will have either aromatic leaves, fleshy and succulent leaves which store moisture for dry spells, grey leaves, hairy leaves which shade themselves with their own hairs, long narrow leaves which are good at shedding heat without water, or spikes – which act as 'fins' to cool the plant.

Don't water established lawns – if

we have a long hot spell they may turn a bit brown, but they will recover with the autumn rains. Leave them to grow a bit longer to preserve water and introduce drought-tolerant clovers and trefoils which will prevent the lawn from changing colour completely when a dry spell hits.

Try to recycle water as a matter of course. Use a plastic bowl for washing

up and then deposit the water on to your plants, as a small amount of washing up liquid isn't going to hurt them.

Save the really dirty washing-up water for tougher plants such as mature shrubs and trees. Bath water can also be re-used if you install a diverter which redirects water from the down-pipe into a water butt.



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It all Stacks up against the EU

THE problems caused by Operation Stack are having a disproportionate effect on Kent but these are symptoms of a greater event affecting the whole country, namely the massive changes that will ensue as the European project unravels and finally falls apart.

No doubt the rulers of the EU think that the Carthaginian peace they have inflicted upon Greece was a victory but for them it will prove a Pyrrhic one.

Although the Greeks have been forced into submission the benign mask that the institutions of the EU have sheltered behind for decades has finally been ripped aside and exposed the truly undemocratic and authoritarian face behind it.

Not only is the agreement reached, as predicted by the IMF, doomed to fail, but the actions of the EU have finally opened the eyes of the progressive left to its real nature, offering the opportunity for its rejection by both conservatives and liberals.

The problems experienced will be a constant for sometime but in the end the return to a continent of democratic, independent nation states will make it worth all the irritation.

Colin Bullen,
Tonbridge

M20 lorry park is EU problem

GERMANY's minister for Europe, Michael Roth, told David Cameron that freedom of movement is part of the EU bloc's "core identity" and said he regards the EU "as a team requiring compromises from each member" and any renegotiation would take many years.

Meanwhile, trucker Peter Clark, who asked 'team France' to check his unsecurable large cement mixer for immigrants, found they had no torch, no ladder and no will, so was fined £2,000 when he got to the other side. Meanwhile, 'team France' continue to cause mayhem for thousands as they strike and do little about the immigrants who've passed through many borders to get to what they know as 'Treasure Island'.

With Operation Stack, our open borders and the subjugation of Greece – it's a fantasy to believe we can ever find an accommodation with the intransigent EU.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

LETTER OF THE WEEK



We fuss over foxes but what of killer cats?

THE ongoing debate concerning fox hunting is the perpetual shadow of the greatest waste of public money this country has ever known (KoS, Should Hunt Ban Remain?, last week, cover).

We should put this into perspective. Undoubtedly, foxes suffer while being hunted and experience pain when caught.

I don't know how many foxes were killed per year prior to the ban by organised hunts of the kind people take issue with, I guess it was less than 1,000, possibly a few hundred.

Yet this amount of pain and suffering numerically pales against the estimated 3.5 million protected animals – song birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles – which are mauled and killed in an equally stressful and painful way by pet cats.

Their ineffectual owners excuse this as being "only natural", or worse "she's only playing with

them". In terms of cats behaving naturally (and owners do have a legal duty of care to indulge their pet's natural behaviour), if domestic dogs exhibit the natural behaviour of their ancestors they would hunt in packs.

Why is it that if dog owners allow their charge to damage wildlife then they can be breaking the law, yet a cat owner can knowingly allow their cat to roam and do the same?

My point is that if as much energy as has been expended on lobbying for a ban of fox hunting was spent bringing UK law in line with civilised countries where it is illegal to allow pet cats to roam and predate on wildlife, then the positive impact on our native fauna would be immeasurable.

It seems that while all animals are equal, clearly some are more equal than others!

Dr Mike Nicholls,
via email

Try keeping the faith, Ray Duff

THE long running debate which began on a Christian note has been changed by Ray Duff (letters, ad nauseum), to a history lecture on climate change. Where is the connection?

Originally a candle of faith was lit, anchored to the Bible.

From time to time, Mr Duff and others have tried and failed to extinguish that light, but 'darkness overcome it not'.

The glow is on-going and hope springs eternal.

I come down heavily on the side of Phil Granger regarding Auschwitz (letters, previous). If Ray Duff thinks this is an unrelated issue, then he is wrong.

Before he tries to blame God for Auschwitz and other atrocities, man is the root cause. Man's inhumanity to man.

'Do unto others as I would they should do unto me'.

We must conclude on a Christian note, as we began.

Mary McNulty,
Brenchley

Ray Duff,
Folkestone

Big debate heats up (geddit?)

COLIN Bullen's litany of outdated climate denier info (KoS, letters, last week) is easily rebutted.

Indeed, 97 per cent of the world's climate scientists, including those in 'Czar' Putin's Russia; all accept that it's happening, and our fault due to 150 years of industrial release of carbon dioxide to now 400 part per million worldwide; and latterly some natural methane.

The effect has been known since 1851, codified by Nordic scientist Arrhenius in the 1890s; and even by the 1970s the concern over cooling was quickly disproved as warming was showing even at that point.

In March 2015, the Met Office reported the Arctic ice reached its lowest ever winter maximum and the Antarctic see its warmest ever day. Soon after the Brit Antarctic Survey revealed that the Larsen C ice shelf is thinning due to warmer oceans and air.

In June 2015, the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration showed that in fact there was no 'pause' in global warming between 2000 and 2014 after adding in new information from the Arctic previously missing; and it's now at a faster rate than between 1950 and 1999.

The coming climate talks in Paris are now vital in stopping a serious rise in global warming, but one of the main sticking points is cash help for the developing world; especially India and its coal use; to bypass such fossil fuelled methods of doing so.

Yet the US Defence budget is circa \$400m a year and the world's tax-havens hold up to £32 trillion doing little or nothing. Diverting monies from such needs some serious consideration.

In the UK, in June, eighty of Britain's biggest companies urged the Government to urgently combat climate change.

Yet David Cameron now ends support for green businesses, low carbon homes, and backs forcing fracking under people's homes and SSSI nature sites along with expensive subsidies for foreign owned new nuclear, when what's really needed is expanding solar, wind, tidal and energy efficiency instead.

So Mr Bullen, either keep up and campaign hard or your own descendants will, as with everyone else's, suffer greatly from global warming of over 2C unless action is taken right now.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
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- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

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Doddington Place, Faversham by **Brian Summers,** from Faversham

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RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box No: 418117

HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. P's call, ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box No: 418167

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeks caring male for fun friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box No: 412369

GORGEOUS flower, Ashford Kent, 51, larger lady, large personality, easy going, seeks male who likes dogs, animals for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No: 366019

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 472127

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTm professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

DEBORAH 41, intelligent brunette, lovely brown eyes, discreet, many interests, seeks similar male to share fun and good conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416515

ATTRACTIVE black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

MAY sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

SUE young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

JACKIE 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

BECKY 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

LINDA 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

TERESA 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081

LUCY stunning tall brunette, looking for exciting times, seeks like-minded, adventurous male who is willing to try anything once or maybe even twice! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416079

PETITE blonde, blue eyes, very feminine and sensual seeks younger male for friendship and discreet fun. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416077

SARAH 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

ANGIE attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dogs walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTm honest, fun male for possible ltr. looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

LISA attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

JANINE 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629

SUE 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTm kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735

INTELLIGENT funny guy without a huge ego required for damaged heart. Casey 39, size 10, curves in all the right places, pretty, kind, loving, genuine, romantic and available. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415509

BLACK lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477

JENNY voluptuous blonde tanned well-presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399

JOYCE 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561

Men Seeking

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JONATHAN good looking, considerate, long curly hair, N/S, seeks tall, slim female, 30-45. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418451

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easygoing, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539

ASHFORD male, 66, GSOH, easy going, smoker, down to earth, adventurous, seeks like-minded female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416845

55YR old male, 5ft 9ins, slim, likes swimming, pool, seeking female for fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418265

COMPANION sought, 50-60's by slim, young looking 65yr old man for cinema, music, eating, drinking, talking and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418257

JOHN nice looking, brown curly hair, gentle, understanding, seeks tall, slim lady for daytime no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418207

BRIAN happy go lucky, genuine, loving, likes nights in, DVDs, meals out, seeking genuine lady for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418197

MALE widower, N/S, likes reading, walking, WLTm lady 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418173

COME dine with me. Attractive black British male 50 yrs, 6ft, medium building, working, GSOH, romantic and genuine WLTm similar female. Text only to Mailbox No: 4763687

PETE 49, slim, 5ft 7in s, smoker, creative, likes art, live bands, outdoors, seeks similar female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418421

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, week-ends away, cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

MALE widower, N/S, seeks buxom lady, 50-70, likes reading, 60's music, pub quizzes and crosswords. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417905

BRIAN 71, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, music, walks, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417697

PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

48YR old divorced male, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun and laughter. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380789

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

PAT blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533

MANDY 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLTm genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513

JACKIE very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated 28yr old female, loves nights in/out, sports, WLTm sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415377

DONNA 36yrs un-modest but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187

ROAD worker looking for fun times and hopefully more. Great sense of humour. Laughs a lot. Looking for the same in lady. Text only to Mailbox No: 4753610

ROCKABILI guy, seeks rock chick, 25-50 who likes 50's rock music and bands. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 284750

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212

UNDEAD 5ft 5ins, retired, 69, solvent, likes most things, meals out, holidays, golf, swimming, GSOH, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418221

67YR old male, slim, 5ft 5ins, many interests, likes holidays, meals out, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414203

BARRY 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for winning, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361787

VINCENT 48, 6ft, well built, seeks lady for fun nights in and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377397

HAPPY go lucky divorced man, 48, 6ft, well built, seeks gorgeous female to share love and laughs with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383719

GARY 48, 6ft, well-built, dark hair, brown eyes, seeks passionate female for fun times in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387175

49YR old male, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390929

ED, retired Essex guy, astute & wise. N/S, no ties, with looks & humour seeks younger female needing life's mentor/tutor. Text only to Mailbox No: 4485189



HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

GOOD looking fit male, romantic kind and passionate, with lots of love to give WLTm a mature lady 55 to 65 for LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 4760779

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691

ROAD worker looking for fun times and hopefully more. Great sense of humour. Laughs a lot. Looking for the same in lady. Text only to Mailbox No: 4753610

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ED, retired Essex guy, astute & wise. N/S, no ties, with looks & humour seeks younger female needing life's mentor/tutor. Text only to Mailbox No: 4485189

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

KIND, tall, medium build, smart, easy going widower, 71 WLM Lady 60's early 70's, for easy going friendship OHAC. Text only to Mailbox No: 4641218

MALE, attractive, kind, loyal, gentle, no lies, looking for kind, gentle, small lady for friendship and LTR. Text only to Mailbox No: 4711124

DOVER male 54 seeks female for friendship, conversation and maybe more. Text only to Mailbox No: 4682630

Gay Seeking

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GAY male 54 years old, seeks gay male 40 to 42 years old for 121 long lasting relationship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4732986

BI male, slim, passive, seeks older BI M, 75-90, for a little fun and friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4398888

MAIDSTONE BI male, clean-shaven, N/S, seeks similar BI male, N/S for meetings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416737

PASSIVE male, 60, overweight seeks assertive male for daytime fun, cannot accommodate. Text Only Mailbox No: 4321273

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Avensis flies the UK flag

FIRST DRIVE: Can a long distance drivers' consensus give Toyota's new look Avensis an edge in the family saloon or estate battle, asks **Steve Loader**...

TOYOTA makes no bones about its target customer for the latest evolution of its Avensis family model - 87 per cent of buyers are expected to be fleet and business sector.

But irrespective of big tax savings for that type of customer, the new Avensis (from £18,850) - effectively an evolution of the previous car - has low running costs, comfort and on-board technologies that should appeal equally to private buyers.

For the patriotic, the fact the Avensis is built in the UK near Derby also gives it an edge over those so-called British rivals built on the Continent, the Ford Mondeo and Vauxhall Insignia.

In re-casting the Avensis, which now has a sharper and more corporate nose, Toyota says it canvassed the opinions of motorists who spend long periods at the wheel.

As a result, the new line-up of saloons and 'Touring Sports' - estates to you and me - includes two equipment grades that focus on the things that make life more comfortable, convenient and connected for today's business motorist.

The Avensis Business Edition comes equipped with Toyota Touch 2 with Go, a fast eight-inch touchscreen-controlled multimedia package that includes navigation, Bluetooth, DAB and online access for local information and journey planning. Cruise control, automatic air conditioning



and automatic headlights and wipers also help take the stress out of driving.

Business Edition Plus then adds leather and Alcantara seats, LED headlights and daytime running lights, rear privacy glass and smart entry with push-button start.

Engine choice is now mostly diesel - a 110bhp 1.6 or all-new 141bhp 2.0-litre that is probably the pick - though there is also a 147bhp 1.8-litre petrol option.

With the demise of the hatchback last time

around, those who need extra space and versatility should check out the rakish Touring Sports.

The estate has rakish style yet loses little in practicality and drives better than before, helped by an extended wheelbase and track within similar overall dimensions.

It is still no Mondeo beater to drive, charting more of a middle course between driver appeal and a passenger-pleasing ride, but the Toyota offers cheap running costs thanks to the Japanese motor giant's 'Optimal Drive' engine.

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Amount of Credit	£7,750	Interest Rate (Fixed)	3.04%
Interest Charges	£991.65	APR Representative	5.9%
Total Amount Payable	£8,891.65		



i20 1.2 S From £10,795

36 monthly payments of	£187.30	Total Amount Payable	£12,020.30
On the Road Price	£10,795	Optional Final Payment	£4,090.50
Customer Deposit	£187	Mileage per annum	6,000
Manufacturer's Deposit	£1,000	Duration of Agreement	37 months
Total Deposit	£1,187	Interest Rate (Fixed)	3.04%
Amount of Credit	£9,608	APR Representative	5.9%
Interest Charges	£1,225.30		



i30 1.4 S From £12,750

36 monthly payments of	£248.36	Total Amount Payable	£14,232.21
On the Road Price	£12,750	Optional Final Payment	£4,543.25
Customer Deposit	£248	Mileage per annum	6,000
Manufacturer's Deposit	£500	Duration of Agreement	37 months
Total Deposit	£748	Interest Rate (Fixed)	3.04%
Amount of Credit	£12,002	APR Representative	5.9%
Interest Charges	£1,482.21		

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Vauxhall's new Rocks star is all grown up

Vauxhall's Adam was a real city boy at first, but new engines and versions like the Rocks show he's grown up, **writes Steve Loader...**

IT'S called the Adam Rocks – and it does. But I'm not sure that's exactly what Vauxhall's marketing people intended with the name for this SUV-styled version of the brand's handbag/manbag sector contender.

They, of course, wanted the 'Rocks' name and 'funky chunky' styling add-ons to imply this little car really could conquer some modest piles of rubble thanks to its chunky looks and a 15mm suspension pump-up.

Not sure about that, but it certainly 'Rocks' in terms of fun. For blokes, the standard Adam is a bit twee, but this steroidal spin-off is hunkier and funkier and, thanks to some chassis re-tuning, also handles with more precision even if the higher ride makes it heel a little on bends.

Vauxhall has also added an electric rollback canvas roof à la Fiat 500C and the Citroen DS3 Cabrio, which adds to the Rocks' appeal.

But the icing on the cake is the availability of a cracking little 1.0-litre turbocharged petrol engine, which means that the full title of the test car here is the Adam Rocks Air.

I cannot praise this smooth, powerful yet economical engine enough, after first experiencing it in



the new Corsa: it kicks out a lively 113bhp and hits 62mph in 9.9 seconds, yet offers 55.4mpg on the combined cycle – if you don't keep enjoying the turbocharging – and emits a not unreasonable 119g/km of CO₂, so you'll pay no road tax in

year one and then £30 a year. All in all, the Rocks sweeps away my reservations on driving the original Adam two years ago, when I wrote an imaginary job reference: "Adam has style and is very presentable and would be an asset to



the company's image, but we do wonder if the lad has the depth and character to deliver what's required, week in, week out. He's a city boy at heart and we cannot see him roughing it if asked to go out and about.

Vauxhall Adam Rocks 1.0i 115PS Turbo S/S	
Price:	from £16,995
Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Fiat 500

"Nevertheless, we still recommend him for the job, because we think he will develop and grow."

I think the Rocks proves 'he' has developed and grown.

Not in all ways though: the three-door Adam is city car size inside with a small boot, but key rivals are hardly better in a sector where packaging is all and the Vauxhall offers the most permutations for customising – they run into millions.

And the car is well screwed together and feels very upmarket – exactly where Vauxhall fancies re-positioning itself these days.

If I have a reservation about the Rocks, it is that it might be a tad expensive for some: the standard Adam line-up starts at £11,630 – that's before you start customising – but the Rocks begins at £13,995.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 85g/km.*

Personal contract hire offer on Viva SE 1.0i 75PS in Solar Red, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £690, then 36 monthly rentals of £115. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 15,000 over 36 months charged at 7.24ppm. Personal contract hire offer on ADAM SLAM 1.2i 70PS in Greenspotting metallic paint with White My Fire roof colour pack, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £975, then 36 monthly rentals of £195. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 15,000 over 36 months charged at 7.31ppm. Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa Excite 1.4 90ps ecoflex a/c in Sovereign Silver, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £620, then 36 monthly rentals of £124. Excess miles over contracted mileage of 15,000 over 36 months charged at 6.64ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. For full specification and Ts&Cs contact your local Retailer. **You will not own the car.** ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, B516 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Offers available on orders or registrations between 2 July and 7 October 2015. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results. Offer applies to pre model year 2016 vehicles only. See Retailer for further details. Correct at time of going to press.

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3 September, 2015 • Quote DG9-1-KOS

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Price includes: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Angoulême (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 5 nights half-board stay at a 3-star hotel in Perigueux • All Excursions • Transfers abroad



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4 September, 2015 • Quote DZ9-KOS

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Price includes: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at St Pancras • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Antwerp (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 3 nights 3-star hotel B&B in Antwerp • Excursion to Zundert Flower Parade • Transfers abroad



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Rome, Amalfi Sorrento & Pompeii

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10 September, 2015 • Quote AM9-1-KOS

Come with us by rail to some of Italy's most iconic locations including Rome, Amalfi, Sorrento, the island of Capri, Positano, Ravello and Pompeii. We stay in Rome and the Amalfi coast resort of Minori with unparalleled scenic vistas and epic cliff hugging towns nearby. Included excursions take-in all these wonderful places.

Price includes: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Rome, returning from Naples • Overnight hotel B&B in or near Turin or Milan outbound and return • 2 nights hotel B&B in Rome • 5 nights half-board stay at a 3-star hotel in Minori • All excursions • Transfers abroad



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Riviera of Flowers Monaco & Portofino

Escorted Holiday by Rail
17 September, 2015 • Quote RF9-3-KOS

This super holiday, taking in the French and Italian Riviieras, starts with a Champagne check-in at St Pancras famous Champagne Bar before an afternoon departure on Eurostar to Paris. After an overnight stay, we continue by TGV train to Nice and then coach along the scenic coastal road to Allassio. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel and excursions to Monaco, Eze, Portofino and Dolceacqua.

Price includes: Escorted throughout abroad • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night B&B in Paris • 6 nights at a 3-star hotel in Allassio • half-board plus selected free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • All Excursions • Transfers abroad



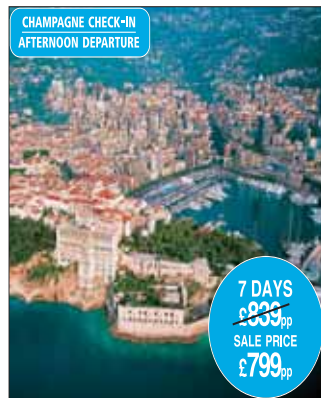
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Florence, Pisa & Cinque Terre

Escorted Holiday by Rail
20 September, 2015 • Quote FP9-KOS

Tuscany is certainly one of the most beautiful regions in Italy. We stay in the chic resort of Forte dei Marmi within easy driving distance of the towns of Lucca, Pisa, Florence and the stunning higgledy-piggledy villages of Cinque Terre. There is also the option to visit Santa Margherita and Portofino. Enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel in Italy.

Price includes: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night B&B hotel in or near Nice • 6 nights half board 3 star hotel stay in Forti dei Marmi with free drinks from 6pm to 10pm • Excursions • Transfers abroad



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French Riviera - Cannes St Tropez & Monaco

Escorted Holiday by Rail
22 September, 2015 • Quote CD9-5-KOS

Come with us to one of the world's most photographed coastlines and home to so many iconic locations from the glitz and glamour of Cannes, St Tropez and Monaco, to the tranquil beauty of Sainte Marguerite Island, where the Man in the Iron Mask was incarcerated. Enjoy all the sparkle and grandeur starting with a glass of Champagne at St Pancras and a night in Paris or Lille en-route to our 4-star hotel in Cannes from where we visit Sainte Marguerite Island, St Tropez, Port Grimaud and Monaco.

Price includes: Escorted throughout • Champagne check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras to Cannes (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille • 5 nights half-board stay at a 4-star hotel in Cannes • Excursions • Transfers abroad



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Italian Lakes Como & Maggiore

Escorted Holiday by Rail
22 September, 2015 • Quote CM9-KOS

Come with us to Lake Como and enjoy jaw-dropping natural beauty, elegant old villas, scenic towns and tranquil lake 'cruises'. We travel by Eurostar from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Paris for an overnight stay. From here we continue by train to Stresa and by coach to the Grand Britannia Excelsior Hotel on the shores of Lake Como.

Price includes: Escorted throughout • Champagne Check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras to Stresa (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Paris • 6 nights full board PLUS free drinks every day at the Grand Britannia Excelsior Hotel staying in deluxe lake-view rooms • Included excursions to Bellagio, Varenna, Lake Maggiore and the Borromeo Islands • Transfers abroad



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Rapallo, Portofino & Cinque Terre

Escorted Holiday by Rail
28 September, 2015 • Quote RP9-3-KOS

Liguria is certainly one of the most beautiful and popular regions in Italy. We stay in the seaside town of Rapallo and enjoy free drinks every night at the hotel and included excursions to the world heritage Cinque Terre; the famous Tuscan cities of Pisa and Lucca; and idyllic Portofino by boat.

Price includes: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras to Nice (from Ebbsfleet on request) • 1 night hotel B&B in Nice • 6 nights half-board hotel in Rapallo with selected free drinks from 6pm to 10pm every night • All excursions • Transfers abroad

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- Good IT Skills
- Excellent Customer Service skills
- Experience in the health sector desirable

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Danielle Edwards, Business Office Supervisor, on 01304 245955

For a job description and application form please visit www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant

Telephone: 01304 245943

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer. These positions are subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



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Due to continued expansion a market-leading supplier to the garden centre trade now requires a Buying Assistant to join its team based in the Ashford Head Office. Working alongside the Buyers and reporting to the Commercial Director, the role will involve the following:

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- Arranging import documentation, coordinating container deliveries and receipt of stock; checking and entering corresponding freight invoices.
- Updating buying plans and forecasts based on weekly sales trends.
- Creating product codes and categories on our database.
- Quality control of goods received and raising the appropriate credit claims to suppliers that have fallen short of the required standards
- Preparing product cost calculations to aid decisions on potential new products.
- Monitoring stocks of point of sale material; obtaining and comparing quotations when replenishments are required.

It is envisaged that you will also become involved in product development and aspects of marketing in due course.

This is an excellent opportunity to join an ambitious, innovative and rewarding company in a varied role at a time of sustained growth. The successful candidate will be expected to show an interest in all aspects of the business, and be flexible enough to assist in other areas as required.

Clear communication skills and attention to detail are vital and the role therefore demands exemplary literacy and numeracy levels. Experience of Excel, Word and Outlook preferred.

Starting salary £18,000 to £20,000 dependent on experience, with regular reviews.

Send written applications in the first instance by 31 July, enclosing a CV, to:
James Hoad, Commercial Director, Apta, Dencora Way, Ashford, Kent, TN23 4FH



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LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Dean & Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral of The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EH has applied to Canterbury City Council for the Variation of Premises Licence KE-PR-1049 to extend the permitted hours for all licensable activities save for late night refreshment from 22.30 hours to 00.00 hours for the premises CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTRE situated at The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EH.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing> or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW telephone 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10 am and 4 pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by the 14th August 2015.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives; the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION

DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY CAPEL-LE-FERNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROPOSED ORDER UNDER SECTIONS 554 AND 556 OF THE EDUCATION ACT 1996

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:-

1. That the Secretary of State for Education proposes to make an order under sections 554 and 556 of the Education Act 1996 in respect of the above-mentioned Church of England educational foundation. The purpose of sections 554 and 556 is to enable the assets of discontinued denominational voluntary schools to be applied for the benefit of new and continuing voluntary schools and foundation schools of the same denomination within the state system of education. The order will, where appropriate, authorise the sale of the premises described.

2. That under sections 554 and 556 of the Education Act 1996 any person interested may within one month after the date of this Notice make representations on the proposed order in writing to the Secretary of State at the Department's address given below.

A copy of the draft order may be inspected from Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm at Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1NQ and Lee Bolton Monier-Williams of 1 The Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3JT.

Additional copies can be obtained from the Department of Education, Schools Assets Team, Bishopsgate House, Darlington DL1 5QE
Dated 28th day of July 2015

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Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

K D Demolition Limited of Sand & Gravel Ltd, Quarry Drive, A20 Swanley Bypass, Hockenden Lane, Swanley BR8 7QH is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To keep an extra 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at the operating centre at Quarry Drive, A20 Bypass, Swanley BR8 7QH

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be effected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Notice Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 (as amended)

Deceased: Joyce Gwendoline Allen

Address: The Grove, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Kent

Date of Death: 9th July 2015

Any person having a claim against or an interest in the above estate is required to send particulars to the under mentioned solicitors within two months of the date of publication of this notice after which date the estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they received notice.

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Revolving doors as Gills seek recruits

Boss says team needs more 'strength in depth' this season

Football

By Jamie Weir

jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

GILLS gaffer Justin Edinburgh says although he's pleased with the way the team has performed in their pre-season friendly games so far, he's still on the hunt for some new names to add to his roster.

The squad needs more 'strength in depth' according to Edinburgh, despite a raft of new signings to the team, including 19 year old midfielder Jordan Houghton, who signed on loan from Chelsea.

He said: "We are still quite light so we are still looking to bring players in. We are hopeful we can do that before the season starts.

"We've got Jordan until January and, if we can, we'd like to secure one or two others for the whole season – we know where we stand then.

"What I don't want is money to be the priority coming to Gillingham."

It isn't just players the squad needs though. Edinburgh is also going to be on the lookout for a new goalkeeping coach after Jason Brown took the decision to walk on Thursday in a move which took many by surprise.

The former Gills player had barely got his feet under the table having only returned to the club earlier this month.

In a statement, the club said he had chosen to pursue his coaching career 'elsewhere' although it is not yet clear where that is.

He had been a key part of the Gills' Championship squad, playing 126 league games between March 2001 and June 2006, before he left to play



SCOUTING: The gaffer's looking for some new additions to the squad

Pictures: ADY KERRY

for then Premier League club Blackburn Rovers.

It will mean Edinburgh has a very different backroom team when the club kick off the new campaign next month.

Also gone will be club legend Andy Hessenthaler who also quit during the close season.

Not that the changes have affected the Gills during their early pre-season games.

One player who stood out for Edinburgh during the Gills recent 2-1 win against Bromley is Bradley Dack, who netted the winner.

The gaffer said: "It was a very good finish but we know what Bradley is about and he has that quality in abundance.

"He's come back in really good condition, he's taken a lot out of last year and he's a bright young player and we are excited for the season ahead for him."

Club stalwart needs your vote to win top award

MAIDSTONE based Invicta Sunday FC are appealing to the public to vote for their club secretary Angela Reed in the Football Association's national Community Awards.

Mrs Reed was named winner of the South East Outstanding Contribution to Football Award category earlier this year, putting her in the running for the national award which will be announced at Wembley on August 2.

Mrs Reed has been the secretary, kit washer, match organiser and meeting attendee for the club for over 20 years.

Her dedication has meant she's only missed two games during the past 24 seasons. She even took to the pitch as the team's physiotherapist six days before the birth of her daughter in 1994.



HERO: Angela Reed is gunning for the national FA award

She said: "I am just astounded that my nomination has got to the final eight nationwide. It's all a bit too

much to take in, surreal even. I just enjoy being a part of the football family and like any family, Invicta Sunday has been through it all but we are still going."

The awards - which are organised by the FA and McDonald's - celebrate local football heroes who have worked to support grassroots football in their communities.

Sir Geoff Hurst, McDonald's director of football, said: "Volunteers like Angela dedicate countless hours to supporting the local community and ensure hundreds of children and adults can enjoy the national game. I would like to thank Angela for all her work and wish them all of the luck for the national awards."

To vote visit www.kentfa.com/news/2015/jul/vote-for-angela-reed

Sport Shorts

» Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

Coles to remain at Kent on 'long term' contract

KENT paceman Matt Coles is set to stay at the county club for the 'long term' after inking an extension to his contract this week.

The Maidstone born 25-year-old cricket academy graduate said he was 'thrilled' to commit to the club for the long haul, and to be back in his home county.

He returned to Kent having left for a brief spell to play at Hampshire, coming back at the beginning of this season.

Coles said: "Having spent a short time away, I've been impressed by the progress of the players who came through the academy with me and this has had a major influence on my decision to sign this contract.

"I'm convinced that major honours for the county are just round the corner. The development of The County Ground, Beckenham shows the vision of the club.

"I would also like to extend my gratitude to the supporters who have welcomed me back. I hope I can repay them for the support they have shown towards me."



THRILLED: Coles is happy to be staying in his home county



BRAVE: Byrne took a tumble, but still claimed second place in the next race

Shakey bounces back after 120mph smash

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne had to pick himself up after a crash in front of his fans at Brands Hatch last weekend.

Despite winning pole position in qualifying, the four time defending British Superbike (BSB) champion crashed out of the weekend's first race in high drama.

He said: "I'd ridden the same style entering Hawthorn corner 40 or 50 times over the weekend and had no problems. I could see from my lap timer the pace wasn't that fast. I sat there comfortably and then the next minute I was on my ear in

the gravel. It's such a fast place to crash, I got a bit of a hiding."

Despite the 120mph smash, the Sittingbourne racer's team rebuilt the PBM Kawasaki for the next race.

He said: "In race two I went out thinking of the team because the bike was a little bit second-hand after the crash and so was I. Fortunately my daughter gave me a little cuddle and was like 'come on Daddy'."

It helped, as despite a tough ride, he took second place, earning a podium spot and points.

Brands to host supercar line-up

BRANDS Hatch will purr to the sound of supercars next weekend.

The Westerham track will be hosting the latest round of the Avon Tyres British GT Championship over August 1-2.

The racing will take place on the venue's legendary Grand Prix circuit.

The British GT Championship

features exotic cars dicing at speeds in excess of 150mph.

The grid will comprise of all the biggest names, among them the likes of Aston Martin, Audi, BMW, Ferrari, Lotus, McLaren, Mercedes and Porsche.

Qualifying is on Saturday with Sunday hosting the full two-hour main race.

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12 Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Acenta Premium 37,511 miles	£10,000	12 Vauxhall Meriva 1.7 CDTi 16v S 49,351 miles	£7,720
13 Nissan Juke 1.6 16v Visia 5dr 14,910 miles	£10,250	14 Vauxhall Mokka 1.4 T Turbo 16v 16,216 miles	£15,750
12 Nissan Note 1.6 16v N-Tec+ 5dr 58,852 miles	£6,790	63 Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 i VVT 16v 20,969 miles	£10,920
58 Nissan X-Trail 2.0 dCi Aventura 66,910 miles	£10,500	61 Volkswagen Polo 1.4 Match DSG 59,040 miles	£8,320
13 Peugeot 107 1.0 12v Active 5dr 26,071 miles	£5,600	60 Volvo C30 2.0 D SE Lux 2dr 39,459 miles	£10,000
62 Peugeot 208 1.4 HDi FAP Access 53,290 miles	£6,620		



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MG3 Fuel consumption mpg (l/100km) for MG3 Range: Urban: 37.7 (7.5), Extra Urban 57.6 (4.9), Combined 48.7 (5.8), CO2 Emissions 136 g/km.

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